Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-065 *5 April 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel-Palestinian Talks on Elections Continue

Head Delegates Comment

TA0404155895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli and Palestinian delegations met in Jericho today for talks on elections in the territories. The two sides discussed updating the Palestinian population census and preparing the voter registries which will be based on the census.

Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser and head of the Israeli team, said Israel gave the Palestinians a magnetic tape which contains census information, as well as aerial photos of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. They will be used to draw voting districts.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the head of the Palestinian delegation, said many issues—including the makeup of the Palestinian council—remain to be resolved. He told Gil Litman he believed IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops should not return to Arab centers after the elections.

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] And in our opinion, redeployment is a one-way ticket out because it will be matched with Palestinian deployment, because the Palestinian police will be in charge of public order. So we are not talking about here temporary redeployment, and this is an interpretation I give as a Palestinian side, even though that these negotiations here are not involving the issue of redeployment.

[Litman] Can you summarize the points that you are not agreed about in this stage?

['Urayqat] I think we have entered a new stage for negotiations where we are doing the joint drafting. We are at the stage of exchanging proposals: Palestinian proposals and Israeli proposals. We are concentrating on the first reading, the second reading, the third reading, and the fourth reading, and there may be a sixth [as heard] reading for the structures. There are issues that were resolved, and there are issues that are still hanging there. One of the issues that is still not resolved is the number of the council members, the participation of the Palestinians of Jerusalem, and we hope to be able to reach the deadline set by Mr. Peres and 'Arafat in their last meeting in Erez.

I would like to remind you here that we are not trying to reach here just only an election agreement. What we are trying to do is to have, by the timetables reached between our respective leaders, is the interim agreement in which the elections will be an annex or along with the redeployment, security and economic matters, legal reviews, and the transfer of authorities. [end recording]

Talks Conclude

JN0404152995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The new round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on redeployment and elections concluded in Jericho this afternoon. The Palestinian side was led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat while the Israeli side was headed by Yo'el Singer.

The meeting dealt with technical issues pertinent to Palestinian voter lists. Dr. 'Urayqat received lists of eligible voters who are over 18 years of age. Dr. 'Urayqat asked the Israeli official to provide him with aerial maps in order to specify Palestinian constituencies.

Four-Way Meeting on Projects Held in Al-'Aqabah

JN0404183595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first meetings among Jordan, Israel, Egypt, and the United States opened in al-'Aqabah today to discuss ways to coordinate the exploitation of coastal resources and establish joint regional projects.

Experts from the three [as heard] countries will discuss projects for the protection of al-'Aqabah Gulf environment and ways to combat any possible oil pollution, and the use of science and technology in implementing economic projects, such as the fishery projects.

Tripartite Committee Discusses Jordan Valley

JN0404205595 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 4 Apr 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jordanian, Israeli, and American representatives met in Amman today to discuss plans to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. The meeting is part of the trilateral economic committee for the integrated development of the valley. It included a review of the first stage of a study by an American company expected to be finalized in August at the cost of $450,000.

Jordan says its priority is focused on water projects, including dams and pipelines. Among the projects in the development plan is the Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal, which is expected to cost three billion dollars. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Parliamentary Union Begins Session in Rabat

Agenda Adopted; New Members Admitted

LD0304182295 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory,

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the proceedings of the 25th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union today started in the premises of the House of Representatives, under the chairmanship of the union's Chairman Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and in the presence of the heads of Arab parliamentary delegations representing the fifteen member countries of the Arab Interparliamentary Union.

The proceedings of this morning's session were devoted to the adoption of the agenda of the 25th session of the union's council, endorsement of new memberships, and discussion of the general secretariat's report. [passage omitted]

Immediately after this, the heads of the Arab parliamentary delegations approved the membership of the National Assembley of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Consultative Council of the Sate of Bahrain, and the Federal Assembley of the Islamic Republic of Comoros. [passage omitted]

This morning's proceedings of the 25th session of the Arab Interparliamentary Union have just been adjourned and will be resumed this evening in camera. The official opening of the 6th [number as heard] Arab Parliamentary Union conference will take place tomorrow.

Moroccan King Gives Address

LD0404190095 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Address by Moroccan King Hassan II to delegation leaders attending the sixth Arab Parliamentary Union conference, in Rabat on 4 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Thanks to God, and prayers and peace be upon our Lord the messenger of God and upon his family and companions. Your excellencies, heads of Arab parliaments. Let me first thank you for the kind words uttered on your behalf by the speaker of the Egyptian Parliament and the speaker of the Sudanese Parliament. I would also like to thank you for the precious present you have offered us, an elegant and beautiful sword. How I wished it was a magic sword so that we could use it to resolve all Arab disputes.

I will address you with my usual frankness and with a spirit of Arab patriotism stemming from Morocco's affiliation, religiously and racially, to the Arab group.

I will pose a question for us all. Its answer will be bitter. The question is this: Who of us trusts his neighbor or neighbors? No one. Who of us, after analyzing the circumstances and evaluating matters, would not find that the negatives are much more than the positives?

However, we, heads of Arab states, must admit to you—may God reward you—that you are more courageous than we are, because at least you have decided to meet and embark on discussing this subject until you find solutions. You will outline a program for our peoples. Perhaps the leaders will follow your blessed steps.

In the sixties, we used to hear a slogan, namely, the unity of the Arab nation from the Gulf to the Ocean. Perhaps there was something in that slogan which frightened some peoples, due to the contradictory ideologies and international conditions which were subject to the cold war that surrounded it.

However, now the reality and the responsibility for our future make it essential for us to think about the unity of Arab ranks from the Gulf to the ocean, but within another framework and to fulfil other goals.

Is there not a Robert Schuman or Jean Monnet among us? We, the Arab geniuses; isn't there a man among us who could think or dream, as happened to Jean Monnet? Hasn't the time come to lay down the bricks of Arab unity? No one can criticize it, no military, religious, hereditary, or racial bloc—an Arab unity which guarantees food for our children, technological advancement for our generations, and dignity for them in our region and at the international level. [passage omitted]

For the last 34 years this humble servant of God, your host, has been leading his country with the guidance of God and the support of his people. I have never seen the Arab nation as sick as it is now, and I have never seen its ranks so cracked. If healing can not be done from the top, let it be done from the grassroots.

I, as an Arab citizen, call on you, or rather beg you, to push your leaders, and I am at their forefront, to take the daring stride and to face the difficult in order to overcome the past, resolve the present and build for the future. This can not be done unless we believe, to an extent, in fate.

Why fate, and a divine decree? If we say that what occurred in Arab ranks in recent years was the result of fate and a divine decree, and do not see reality, we would be in the position of our ancient poets who always began epic and long poems with lamentations over the past. Well, if we have to, let us lament over the past, but we must not stop there. Let us lament over the past and learn lessons from it, and avoid making the same mistakes again. If we sit and watch the march of the world, then our peoples will bring us to account, and Almighty God will also bring us to account. [passage omitted]

Your Excellencies, as I have told you, I have accustomed myself, my people, and all my brothers in the Arab world to frankness, although it was sometimes sharp and bitter. Here, frankness falls within the framework of Islamic duty, which dictates the offering of advice to the imams of the Muslims and to ordinary Muslims.

March—may God lead your steps—along this course. Storm the doors and face the problems, for parliaments were created first to be the place for the national address

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of every country, and second to disseminate domestic and foreign policy information.

You, being the representatives of your peoples, are kindly requested to spread this message. Let your discourse in domestic and foreign matters be the discourse of the future. A discourse that is held above the current situation in order to achieve what we aspire for or intend to arrive at in the near, not the far, future. Our aims must be in the medium or short term.

I implore God to give you success and let you enjoy the trust of your people. I hope—may God protect you and guide your steps—you will be the messengers of Morocco, the Moroccan people and the Moroccan king. Messengers of brotherhood and solidarity, bearing in mind that your brothers in Morocco will stand in the same rank with you to storm those closed doors which we, the leaders, did not have the courage to open, for which I am sorry. However, the important think is that closed doors are now being opened. [passage omitted]

Syria's Qaddurah Speaks

JN0404214295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 2015 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat—The sixth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union conference began its meetings today with the delegation of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic attending. The delegation is led by Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah.

Representatives of 17 Arab parliaments and the Moroccan Government attended the meeting.

In a speech, Qaddurah said the peace battle currently under way is fiercer than the military confrontation, because the peace Israel wants is unjust and is not based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the restoration of the land and rights.

Qaddurah said Syria was engaged in the peace battle with the spirit of Arab solidarity, and its strategic constants in this respect are not negotiable at a time when Israel obstructs just and comprehensive peace. He said: We understand peace as the restoration of all the land after Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and withdrawal from southern Lebanon in implementation of Resolution 425. Without this, a just and comprehensive peace cannot be established in the region.

Qaddurah criticized the Arab rush toward Israel, and said the hastiness that in some cases reached the point of panting behind Israel will not be in the interest of a just peace that serves the higher interests of our Arab nation.

Qaddurah condemned Israel's aggressive and repressive practices against southern Lebanon and called for ending the siege imposed on the Lebanese coasts and the repeated aggressions against Lebanon. He said Libya is still facing the siege imposed on it.

He called for a unified Arab position and for confronting the nuclear gap with Israel in order to set up a nuclear-free zone. He urged all Arab parliaments to intervene with their governments in order not to sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction unless Israel signs it.

Arab Maghreb Union News Agencies Meet in Tripoli

LD0404183195 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 4 [4 April], JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The third seminar of the editors in chief for the Arab Maghreb Union news agencies started in Tripoli today with the participation of JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, Algerian News Agency, Moroccan News Agency, Tunisian News Agency and the Mauritanian News Agency.

The director general of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY made a speech at the inauguration of the session welcoming the participants in the activities of the seminar.

The director general extended the compliments of the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture who expressed his wishes for the success of the seminar and the adoption of positive and constructive resolutions to enhance the links between Arab Maghreb news agencies.

The director also emphasised the significances of information as a service for development and for social peace.

The director general of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY stressed in his speech the qualitative shift in information mission from rhetoric to the provision of data. He said that this casts a further responsibility on informationists and the media to confront all forms of fragmentation and backwardliness.

He revealed that the Arab Maghreb Union constitutes a major step towards the build-up of the one Arab entity to counter other major international blocks in the next century which does not believe in individual smaller states.

The director general of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY concluded his speech by reasserting the need to play a major role by the news agencies to counter any form of fraudulence, deception or mis- information.

The coordinator of the Arab Maghreb Union news agencies pool made a speech in which he expressed his thanks and gratitude for the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY which hosted the activities of this seminar.

He said that this seminar has a major importance in the area of coordination and cooperation between the news agencies of the Arab Maghreb Union.

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The participants in the seminar will be involved in the [words indistinct] of a series of issues with the aim of strengthening joint links between the news agencies of the union and the advancement of cooperation and coordination.

The inauguration of the seminar was attended by the director of the Arab Maghreb Union administration, the director of the information and research bureau at the General People's Committee [words indistinct] unity, secretaries and editors in chief of local papers and by information attaches at the Arab Maghreb Union embassies to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Vows To Use 'Full Force' Against Hamas

TA0504150695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, PLO head Yasir 'Arafat sharply attacked Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] for assembling explosives in the heart of the crowded al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. Speaking on the occasion of Palestinian Child Day, 'Arafat said that it is his duty to protect every man, woman, child, and family from additional explosive caches of this nature. He said he intends to take advantage of the great rage in the Gaza Strip against Hamas to take steps against this organization with full force.

Four representatives of Palestinian factions, including Fatah, met in Gaza today to discuss the tension that followed the blast in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood and the exchange of sharply worded leaflets between Hamas and Fatah. Nihad Abu-Ghawsh, one of the Gaza Strip leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that although Hamas representatives did not attend the meeting, the participants agreed to take several steps to prevent an escalation of the situation and to dispel the tension. Abu-Ghawsh added that he does not believe a Palestinian element is responsible for the explosion and that only Israel had something to gain from the incident and the ensuing deterioration in relations among the Palestinian factions.

'Several' Hamas Activists Detained

TA0504081495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources in Gaza said that the Palestinian police this morning had arrested several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that among the detained is Jadallah Jadallah and his son Jilal. Jadallah is the father of the terrorist Salah Jadallah, one of those who had kidnapped and murdered the soldier Nahshon Wachsman. Israel is keeping the body of Salah Jadallah and is prepared to hand it over to the Palestinians only in return for the body of the soldier Ilan Sa'adon.

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 5 April in a front-page report quotes Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, Palestinian police commander, as saying that "Yahya 'Ayyash—known as the Engineer—one of Hamas' senior terrorists, was not present in the al-Shaykh Radwan apartment in which five people were killed Sunday [2 April]. 'He was not there before the explosion, when the explosion occurred, nor afterwards,' Gen. al- Jabali said. The general was reacting to reports that 'Ayyash, who heads Israel's most wanted list, was killed in the Gaza explosion. He also denied that six people were killed in the blast, as some reports have said."]

Further on Hamas Arrests

NC0504134295 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 5 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's police force arrested 10 activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Wednesday [5 April], following a deadly bomb blast, Hamas officials said.

Police declined to comment on the Hamas report but said a journalist was arrested for spreading false information about the explosion which killed at least three people in an apartment in autonomous Gaza City on Sunday.

Hamas officials said police detained the militants at home in a pre-dawn raid on the al-Shati' refugee camp and al-Shaykh Radwan district where the blast occurred.

Among those arrested was a cleric, Shaykh Jadallah Jadallah, 55, and his son, Bilal.

Israeli authorities in December 1992 deported the cleric to Lebanon for one year. Another of his sons, Salah, was killed in October 1994 by the Israeli army after he kidnapped a soldier.

Also on Wednesday, police called in a Palestinian journalist of the East Jerusalem daily AL-NAHAR, Tahir al-Nunu, who on Tuesday denied the Palestinian Authority's explanation of Sunday's explosion.

The journalist quoted police officials as saying the bomb could have had a timing mechanism, a theory which would back up the HAMAS claim that it was an attack.

But the Palestinian Authority denied the report, insisting the apartment was a Hamas bomb workshop and that the blast resulted from a mistake by the Muslim militants while handling explosives.

Hamas blamed the blast on Israel's secret services and accused the Palestinian Authority of having collaboration.

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The police have revised an initial casualty toll of six dead, saying the explosion killed five people. But Hamas says that only three people died.

Hamas Spokesman: 'Collusion' Behind Gaza Bomb

MM0404160195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Salamah Ni'mat in Amman and Husayn Hijazi in Gaza: "Towards Alienation Between Hamas and Autonomy Authorities"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday threatened revenge for its members killed in the Gaza explosion the day before yesterday. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel is taking that threat seriously. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, who lives in Amman, has told AL-HAYAH that "Hamas has much evidence confirming that Zionist and 'Arafat's fingers" were behind the explosion. He said that "the Palestinian police's precautionary measures against Nidal al-Dababish, Kamal Kahil's assistant who was injured in the explosion and is considered to be the sole witness of what happened, is in itself evidence of the Palestinian Authority's collusion with the Israeli occupation."

Ghawshah added: "The Palestinian police and intelligence services prevented Nidal's father, uncle, and cousin from visiting him at the hospital one hour before they moved him to an unknown destination." He said that "Police Director Ghazi al-Jabali later announced that Nidal was martyred in the explosion, but Hamas sources then stressed that he was still alive and held by the Palestinian police."

He added that the "police refused to hand over the bodies of the martyrs to their families and prevented thousands of Hamas sympathizers participating in their burial."

The Hamas official warned that "although the movement is eager to preserve national unity and not be dragged into Palestinian infighting, a continuation of the current attitude of the Palestinian National Authority would make it difficult to control the situation." He urged "Arab public opinion to take a stand on the matter and stop these dangerous attitudes on the part of the Palestinian Authority."

Ghawshah confirmed that the Jordanian security authorities yesterday released one of the Hamas leaders in the occupied territory who was arrested about three weeks ago. Ghawshah said that Ma'an Shabib was "in good health" after his release and said that he hoped the arrest was a result of "misunderstanding by the security authorities." [passage omitted]

Official Claims Israel Responsible for 'Abid Murder

TA0204181895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Furayh Abu-Middayn, the official in charge of the justice portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, today for the first time blamed Israel for the assassination of Islamic Jihad member Hani 'Abid in Gaza approximately two months ago.

Abu-Middayn, who spoke with our correspondent Yoram Binur, further claims the Israeli Shin Bet is continuing to operate inside the autonomy area. [passage omitted]

PA Submits First Operating Budget

TA0504112995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Hillel Kuttler in Washington]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has for the first time presented to the international community an operating budget, which is seen as the basis for resolving the impasse over the slow transfer of donor funds.

The PA's 1995 budget for $400 million projects a $136 million deficit. All sides agreed that the gap results primarily from the donors' pledges having not yet been submitted, Israeli officials said.

In meetings here in the last two days involving PA and Israeli officials with the U.S. and other donor countries, however, the Palestinians were criticized for not having yet established budgetary institutions, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir told Israeli reporters.

The meetings were held in advance of a major meeting of the parties in Paris on April 27.

The developments indicate that "at least now, we have found the most creative way to solve the problem of every month having a (PA) money crisis," Savir said.

Official Warns of Violent Clash With Israel

TA0404184295 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 10

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the Palestinian Authority, by Nasir al-Suwayr; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Suwayr] Israel continues to procrastinate in implementing the articles of the Oslo and Cairo accords. The Palestinian side announces every now and then that the talks have reached a dead end and that the peace process is on the verge of collapse. What are the possibilities for the success or failure of the peace process in light of the current situation?

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[Abu-Middayn] In fact, procrastination and foot-dragging is a deep-rooted nature of Israeli leaders. We have felt this at every stage of the negotiations with Israel since Madrid. This procrastination, however, has become destructive in nature. In other words, the aim of this procrastination is to destroy the peace process. At present, Israel does not want to make progress on the Palestinian track. It feels that it has achieved peace with Egypt and Jordan and that soon it will achieve peace with Syria and Lebanon. I believe that if, by the summer, fundamental and speedy progress is not achieved on the issues of the prisoners, redeployment, and elections, the entire peace process will be threatened with collapse. No one can predict the form of the next conflict between us and Israel, but it will be intensive and extremely violent. We will all be in the same boat. I hope that the United States and Israel will understand this equation; otherwise, the storm will come.

[Al-Suwayr] We clearly see that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin violates his commitments to and agreements with the Palestinian side. He stated recently that 1 July, the date on which Shim'on Peres and President Yasir 'Arafat agreed, will not be the final date for the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank. What do these contradictions mean?

[Abu-Middayn] Rabin claims that not only dates are not sacred but also peace itself. He is a general who has a shadow cabinet of military advisers whom he dispatches to all the negotiating tables, whether civilian or military, in order to always bring the talks to a dead end under the pretext of security. Even the Meretz party has abandoned many of its principles. Peres can do nothing, and if he does, it is in consultation with and with the consent of Rabin. In brief, Rabin is an absolute ruler who alone is deciding the fate of the peace process. He is not and will never be a new de Gaulle with this mentality, which is dominated by procrastination and wariness. I tell him that without a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem, peace with the Arab world will not endure and that all his calculations are wrong.

[Al-Suwayr] Some political analysts present the theory that Rabin wants to continue to procrastinate and play for time until he achieves the peace he aspires to with Syria. Then the U.S. and Israeli elections will be just around the corner. Perhaps the Likud, which does not hide its opposition to the peace process, will win. What do you think of this scenario?

[Abu-Middayn] In fact, progress on the Syrian track will bolster the entire peace process. It does not mean that this progress will be at our expense but just the opposite. Rabin has his own personal calculations and agenda. He wants to reach the elections next year at the head of the Labor Party. In his thinking, he is closer to the Likud. Rabin was basically chosen by the Israeli people to lead the peace process. As we are witnessing, this process is faltering so much that it is on the verge of losing its credibility. What concerns Rabin is the opinion polls about his popularity. He wants to be reelected prime minister of Israel. I believe that the Israeli people will not reelect him. Let the Likud come and Labor go. What is important is for the Palestinian position to be cohesive. I believe that this year will be very decisive and that very important developments will take place by July or August.

[Al-Suwayr] Some time ago, you said that the Israeli prime minister proposed to President 'Arafat that a Palestinian state be established in the Gaza Strip in return for postponing discussions and negotiations over the West Bank for the next 20 years. What lies behind this proposal, and do you not believe that it shows Israel's true intention is not to relinquish the West Bank and East Jerusalem?

[Abu-Middayn] This proposal is some sort of political delusion. It cannot be accepted. Gaza was proposed a long time ago. Israel does not want it. Rabin's personal hope was that the sea would swallow the Gaza Strip up. This proposal and idea stem from Israel's disrespect for and lack of commitment to the peace process. Rabin is raising the issue of the West Bank so that there will not be something called the West Bank, while we hear former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon say that he supports doubling the number of settlements in the Arab territories. You are aware that at the time of the Camp David accords, there were 10,000 settlers in the West Bank. Today, more than 150,000 settlers live there. This is the real, basic, and major problem in the peace process: settlement activity first, second, and third. Settlement activity and settlements will destroy the entire peace process. On this basis, Israel should think well about holding serious negotiations on a final solution with us now, instead of entertaining a political delusion about a Gaza republic. The phasing of the peace process has proved its failure. We must engage immediately in speedy and serious talks on the final solution.

[Al-Suwayr] What steps has the Palestinian Authority decided to adopt to confront Israel's procrastination and force it to honor its commitments and signatures?

[Abu-Middayn] We are holding intensive contacts with the cosponsors of the peace process. The foreign minister of Russia, one of the cosponsors, will visit the region and meet with President 'Arafat in Gaza. We are also intensifying contacts with the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

[Al-Suwayr] I understand that you will bring the killers of martyr 'Abid and the six Fatah martyrs, as well as those involved in the Filastin Mosque incidents, before the State Security Court as soon as their files are completed. Can you explain the circumstances of these cases?

[Abu-Middayn] In a few days, I will hold a news conference at which I will present all the precise details about the circumstances surrounding these repugnant crimes and the ways in which they were carried out. I say that Israel, which is shedding tears over security and plays the role of one who is relentlessly pursuing security, is sowing corruption on earth. What proves Israel's clear

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involvement in these incidents is that the person who planted the explosive device that killed martyr 'Abid is an Israeli Shin Bet agent called Abraham Rahmani.

We have lots of other evidence of Israel's involvement in terrorist operations aimed at undermining Palestinian security in the Gaza Strip. We will not remain idle in the face of these repeated attempts. We will give the appropriate response to them. [passage omitted]

Minister Terms Israel's Separation Plan 'Isolation'

JN0404172595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1210 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Interview with PA Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, culture minister in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA]. Good evening.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good evening.

[Correspondent] The Palestinian citizens these days are worried at what is being propagated by Israeli newspapers and officials, particularly Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal, on a plan for final separation between Israel and the Palestinian territories. It seems that this plan, which has been approved by the Israeli intelligence, Army, and police, will now be presented to Rabin for endorsement. We want to know the PNA's stand on this issue and whether it is a security or political plan?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In accordance with the agreements, Israel cannot, in principle, take a unilateral step to decide the situation on the ground in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or within the boundaries of the Gaza Strip.

Israel is now carrying out what it terms security measures. It seems, however, that arrangements are being made to draw the final boundaries between the Palestinians and Israel. This cannot be accepted whether under the headline of separation or security arrangements.

On the other hand, this separation is similar to what was done by the South African authorities and to the American separation in Vietnam. This is a kind of isolation, not separation.

They speak about security separation, but in fact, what we see is intensification of security presence in the Palestinian territory. They speak about economic separation. This is not an economic separation, but a kind of economic isolation. They, on the one hand, are obstructing the exportation of Palestinian products, and on the other hand, they are forcing the Palestinian market to import only Israeli commodities. If they seek economic separation, they must implement the agreements which allow the Palestinian market to deal with the Arab surround—Egypt and Jordan—and with the world.

[Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, I would like here to say that Israeli newspapers have recently published maps on the separation plans. Consequently, many Palestinians, particularly those living along the green line, became concerned over this. They do not know whether they will be on the Israeli or Palestinian side of the green line?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is exactly what I want to say. This is a very serious issue. It means that Israel wants to draw new maps, in accordance with which, it wants to decide a political, not security, formula. If there is a political separation this should take place through negotiations on the basis of the provisions of the agreements. It is clear now that Israel is completely ignoring the agreements and acts far away from any bases included in the agreements.

[Correspondent] Thus, I can understand from this that Israel is trying to impose a new fait accompli before the final stage of the talks begins, as it is trying to do in Jerusalem?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In Jerusalem and in the issue of settlements, such as the expansion of settlements, as well as the so-called security issues. It is obstructing the safe and free passage to the Gaza Strip, and from Gaza to the West Bank. It is also obstructing the economic issues, such as the Palestinian people's right to set up open economic relations with the Arab surround and the world. This is what Israel is doing. All these measures, I believe, do not aim at paving the road to a final solution, but to Israel's solution formula, which is the Bantustan formula. I can say it is the formula of Palestinian enclaves in the heavily populated areas. This is the Israeli plan which should be confronted by the PNA and the Palestinian popular movement. The international quarters, which sponsored the political process, should also be addressed in this regard. I frankly say that the situation is very serious. Also, there are no serious negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israeli side. They were speaking about the beginning of June or July, as the date for accomplishing the agreement. In fact, they unilaterally decide what should be done even before we hold talks and before this date, as well. [passage omitted]

Popular Front Condemns Israeli Land 'Occupation'

JN0104202195 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Apr 95

["Text" of political statement issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in Palestine on the 19th anniversary of Land Day; date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

This is the Land Day anniversary. Meanwhile, the Zionists are stepping up their onslaught to occupy and usurp Palestinian land by looting, stealing, and confiscating it in an attempt to rapidly carry out all the racist Zionist designs, which are aimed at occupying the land, building settlements, and emptying the land by exploiting the current balance of powers and the opportunities created by the Oslo agreement to achieve tactical and strategic Zionist goals. [passage omitted]

We urge all the masses of our people to continue their positive militant position, defend the land, and confront the unjust Zionist settlement by quickly carrying out the following missions:

1. Forming committees for the defense of land in all areas, as well as local subcommittees that will be used as a chief of staff by the Palestinian people to defend the land and block attempts to Judaize or confiscate the land.

2. We believe in the need to form a committee that is specialized in land issues, to expose the practices of the Zionist enemy on the international level, and to secure a world public opinion to support our people's struggle to achieve their rights in land.

3. Let us reclaim the land, particularly those pieces that are threatened with confiscation or that are barren. The youth sector should launch voluntary work campaigns. The agricultural institutions should also work to extend support and suitable facilities for land reclamation.

4. All areas should support any area of land threatened with confiscation by staging marches, demonstrations, and protests in the areas that are confiscated or threatened with confiscation.

5. The national and Islamic forces, as well as the specialized institutions, should hold political seminars and workshops that deal with land and settlement and should expose the occupation's plans and measures in order to resist and abort them. Let the Land Day anniversary turn into a daily struggle of the Palestinian masses, let them unify their action and step up their struggle, and let us eradicate settlement and wipe out the occupation. Blessed be the Land Day, and we will be together until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Palestine

DFLP Ready 'To Return at Once' to 'Homeland'

TA0304084595 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 31 Mar 95 pp 8, 7

[Report by Mustafa al-Sawwaf]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office—Nihad Abu-Ghawsh, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Central Committee, confirmed the readiness of DFLP leaders, foremost of all Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, to return at once to the homeland's soil.

Commenting on the invitation by [Palestinian] Authority officials to the Palestinian brothers abroad, Abu-Ghawsh added that the DFLP had presented lists containing hundreds of names of its cadres and leaders, but only that a handful of those were allowed to return.

He said that the return process is undergoing several stages of thorough scrutiny by Authority and PLO officials as well as by the Israeli side.

Abu-Ghawsh noted that in its recent session, the DFLP Central Committee stressed the issue of return to the homeland as the sacred right of all the Palestinian people in the diaspora.

He added that the return will take place, without any doubt, despite the bad conditions that opponents of the Oslo accord are facing, including the detention of two of the most prominent DFLP leaders who recently returned to the homeland's soil. The two are 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Jiyab, member of the DFLP Central Committee, and Jawdat al-Suwayraki.

Abu-Ghawsh emphasized that the DFLP and opposition factions have asked many international sides working on their behalf to pressure Israel to revoke the decision on banning the return of cadres belonging to factions opposed to the Oslo accord.

PFLP Studying Terms for Opening Cairo Office

MM0404090695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Popular Front Leadership Studying 'Egyptian Conditions' for Opening Office in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH in Damascus that the Egyptian Government has conditionally accepted the application submitted by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, to open a PFLP representative office in Cairo. The sources added that the PFLP leadership is "studying Egypt's conditions for allowing the opening of such an office."

They also said that Abu-Nidal al-Muslimi, member of the PFLP's leadership, told his "supporters" in the front not to enter Gaza on special permits but to wait until their entry on the basis of the lists of the autonomy institutions is approved.

It is worth noting that al-Mulsimi had previously entered on PFLP lists. He represents a trend that is very distant from Habash's leadership and position on the Oslo

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agreement. The sources said that the autonomy authorities had conveyed to al-Muslimi their approval of the entry of about 100 people on the lists of the authorities' institutions.

Meanwhile, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has stressed the existence of a U.S.-Israeli plan to resettle Palestinian refugees in the area of al-Hasakah in northern Syria.

In a speech he made yesterday in Aleppo, he said that the Americans proposed a plan for the "eviction of the Palestinians from the Syrian and Lebanese camps and some of Jordan's camps to the area of al-Hasakah."

He saw that plan as "one of the poisoned fruits of the Oslo agreement which forfeited the right of the refugees to repatriation and ignored Resolution 194 and Resolution 237 on the refugees' unconditional right to repatriation."

PLO Executive's Gaza Meetings 'Null, Void'

MM0304122595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Za'nun Considers Executive Committee Meetings Void and Appeals to Members Who Have Resigned To Return in View of Crucial Circumstances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has questioned the legality of the PLO Executive Committee's recent meetings in Gaza, and declared that everything decided in these meetings was legally null and void.

That came in a letter addressed by al-Za'nun to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in which he also said that the committee had no right to issue its own rulings about a quorum and should have referred back to the Central Council and even the PNC.

In his letter, al-Za'nun said that the Executive Committee had met in Gaza with eight members attending. He added that some of the committee members present ruled that the meeting was legal because six members had resigned and, therefore, did not count in the calculation of the quorum. In other words, the actual number of the Executive Committee members became 12 instead of 18. He appealed to the members who had resigned to withdraw their resignations because of the current difficult circumstances.

Al-Za'nun continued: The Executive Committee's meeting in Cairo 21 February, attended by nine of the 12 members, was also illegal because it was based on the same ruling. Since the PNC speaker is the one who oversees the implementation of the basic law and bylaws, as stipulated in Article 14 of the PNC bylaws, it has become necessary for me to point out that the Gaza and Cairo meetings of the Executive Committee were illegal because of the lack of a quorum and that the decisions made by these meetings are null and void because anything issued by a void meting itself becomes void.

Al-Za'nun stressed that the Executive Committee had no authority to pass its own rulings and offer its own interpretations of the basic law when there is any confusion or ambiguity. That is the right of the PNC and the legal committee deriving from it. Article 13/A stipulates that all Executive Committee members are elected by the PNC. That confirms that an Executive Committee membership does not end before that member's resignation is accepted by the PNC, which means that any suspended membership is not lost and remains valid until the PNC meets and accepts or rejects it. Al-Za'nun added: That is why I find it strange that some people have ruled that those whose membership had been suspended no longer counted on the quorum issue. Under article 14/B, when the number of Executive Committee members who have resigned their membership is equal to or exceeds one-third of the membership, the PNC has a right to fill the vacant positions at a special session to which it would be summoned within a period not exceeding 30 days. Since the above ruling is over 30 days old, the Executive Committee is in the wrong. That is why I urge it to cancel that ruling or call a special meeting of the PNC to fill the vacant positions. I emphasize that under Article 21 of the basic law, the Executive Committee's ruling is wrong.

Al-Za'nun expressed the hope that the Executive Committee chairman would in the future make sure that 12 members attend its meetings, which would otherwise by void and illegal.

In conclusion, he said: In view of the difficult and crucial circumstances the Palestinians find themselves in, I appeal to the Executive Committee members who had resigned or suspended their membership to attend the committee's meetings at this critical phase which requires that everyone rise above the wounds.

Popular Struggle Front Leader Interviewed

MM0404090395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Apr 95 p 6

[Interview with Samir Ghawshah, leader of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and PA minister of labor and social affairs, by unidentified correspondent in Tunis on 31 March]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-HAYAH] The [PLO] Executive Committee decided to proceed with the negotiations until June but you requested suspension of the negotiations. What were your motives?

[Ghawshah] The Executive Committee's decision to continue the negotiations until June was not an absolute decision. The committee urged the peace process sponsors, the international community, and the Arab parties concerned, to put pressure on Rabin's government with the aim of rectifying the course of the negotiations and

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basing them again on the Declaration of Principles agreement, from which the negotiations had deviated as a result of Israeli intransigence and continual attempts to dictate terms outside the framework of the agreement. [passage omitted]

We believe that suspending, freezing, or not attending some rounds of the negotiations would not mean discontinuing the PLO's commitment to the peace process but would be some kind of pressure which should be coupled with political activity at all levels. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The [Palestinian Popular] Struggle Front [PPSF], which is a part of the Palestinian Authority [PA], has criticized the PA's performance and urged correction of that performance. Does this mean that the PA has so far failed to build a national state?

[Ghawshah] Our participation in the PA does not mean prior and absolute approval of the PA's entire performance. We participated on the basis of the minimum national program approved by the Executive Committee. There are obstacles preventing the full implementation of that program, some of them subjective and related to external factors not within the PA's power and some intrinsic and related to our own decisionmaking. We focus on the latter and call for the rectification of the PA's performance in that respect. We believe that there is time before we can judge the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] as having succeeded or failed in building the nucleus and the foundations of an independent state. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The Executive Committee has decided to reactivate the negotiations Steering Committee but Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has refused to chair that committee again so long as Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] insisted on participating in it. What, in your view, is the way out of that dilemma, and would the result be continuation of the present negotiating team leadership even if the Executive Committee's assessment of its performance is negative?

[Ghawshah] It is not a question of Abu-Mazin accepting or rejecting the post. It is much more than that. The fate of the negotiations should not be linked to one particular person because that would mean dwarfing the negotiations and would undermine the person concerned. I believe Abu-Mazin expressed his views clearly and frankly in your paper. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The Executive Committee has decided to resume its regular meetings. Who is to guarantee that the meetings would not again be suspended for another eight months as in the previous period?

[Ghawshah] The main point here is that the Executive Committee of the PLO, which is the highest command of the Palestinian people, should continue to shoulder its duties and play its role as the leadership of all the Palestinian people, including its duties as the source of the PNA's jurisdiction. It is not now a question of who would provide guarantees but rather of the general and joint responsibility of all Executive Committee members to play their part, discharge their duties, and refuse to allow a return to the past situation. In that context, I appeal to the brothers who suspended their membership or resigned from the committee to resume their roles because the Executive Committee's tasks are not restricted to dealing with and following up the Oslo agreement and its implementation. The PLO is still there and it must continue to play its part and shoulder its responsibilities as the highest leadership of the Palestinian people at home and abroad.

Rights Lawyer Fired After Criticizing 'Arafat

TA0504120495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Raji al-Surani, the leading human rights lawyer in Gaza, has been fired from his job at the Gaza Center for Rights and Law, after criticizing Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's violations of law and civil rights.

Other Palestinian human rights groups condemned the dismissal. Hanan 'Ashrawi, director of the Commission for Citizens' Rights, said "it sends a message to all human rights organizations. There is an attempt at silencing and intimidation."

The center's four-man board of directors which dismissed al- Surani said the decision was taken for "professional reasons," that had been spelled out in a letter to him. Al-Surani said, however, that the letter did not clarify the reasons. "I think they didn't like what our center was doing," he said.

Al-Surani was arrested for a day in February after publishing a statement criticizing 'Arafat for setting up security courts, which al-Surani said violated 'Arafat's commitments to uphold law and human rights. He also claimed that political activists were arrested solely because of their party affiliation.

'Ashrawi said that she had no proof al-Surani's dismissal was ordered by 'Arafat, but added there had been "a smear campaign" against human rights activists that claimed they were "financed from abroad and were foreign agents."

Daily Urges Greater Russian Role in Peace Process

TA0404162395 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Kozyrev's Visit and Activating the Russian Role"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current tour by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which took him to Gaza yesterday for a meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat,

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undoubtedly reflects the major priorities of Russian foreign policy and makes the ranking of these priorities by number and significance unnecessary. The Russian role in sponsoring the peace process can be considered a strategic political card to which Russia attaches importance for several reasons, not the least of which is Moscow's interest in securing a special status in the international political arena, particularly the Middle East.

Certainly, the current interacting domestic issues in Russia—primarily the war in Chechnya and its repercussions on the Arab and international levels, especially in terms of Russian-Western relations on one hand and Russian-Arab relations on the other—are of special significance at this time. Moscow is trying to emerge from these crises and is using the Middle Eastern card within the framework of those efforts, bearing in mind that Russia's relationship with the region is not new or marginal but was inherited—with modifications compatible with the changes stemming from the change of the political system—from the collapsed Soviet era. The trend toward maintaining some form of special relationship with the region's countries is continuing.

Irrespective of the Arab and international appeal to end the conflict in Chechnya by peaceful means and to stop the bloodshed there, the Palestinian people are asking about the dimensions of the Russian role in the peace process, especially as Moscow is a sponsoring partner of this process. During the previous stages of the process, Moscow's role did not go beyond sanctioning U.S. and Western initiatives, attempting to obtain certain media coverage through a number of statements, and making visits to and tours of the region—the latest being Kozyrev's current tour.

It would not be asking Russia something beyond its capabilities if the Palestinian people, who maintain friendly and traditional relations with the Russian people regardless of the political or economic system the Russians choose for themselves, call for activating Russia's role in the sponsorship of the peace process. It should pressure Israel as much as possible, at least on the media level, to adhere to the agreements and pledges it signed. It should do so on the basis of the Russian partnership in sponsoring the peace process and out of concern for joint Palestinian and Arab interests with Russia.

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Algeria

President Zeroual Receives RCD Leader Sadi

Part of Bilateral Consultations

LD0304141295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bilateral consultations are continuing between the presidency and the political parties. After the FLN [National Liberation Front] yesterday, it is now the turn of the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy]. President Liamine Zeroual received Said Sadi, secretary general of this party, this morning. Leila Smain reports:

[Smain] Said Sadi's position is well known: he supports the holding of presidential elections. As early as June 1994 he was one of the first people to call for elections in order to get out of the crisis. The presidential elections are expected to provide a definitive, firm basis for popular legitimacy and to give the new authorities the credit Algeria needs.

Sadi supports the creation of an election monitoring committee. This is the prerequisite demanded by the RCD leader for his participation in the elections. He supports the democratic struggle, political responsibility, and the daily resistance movement of the citizens to the terror a political group wants to impose. In other words, he does not support talks with those who mastermind the killings of innocent people or solutions imported from abroad. For Sadi, it is not possible to do elsewhere what he prevents himself from doing in Algiers [as heard]. This is a clearcut position, but he has never disapproved of the principle of a dialogue to get out of the crisis. Although Sadi rejected the last multilateral talks he has never rejected bilateral discussions with the presidency.

An issue which has nothing to do with dialogue remains unresolved today. It is about Sadi's political future. Will he be a candidate in the next elections? If he is, what forces will he have? Will his forces be limited to the RCD and the MPR [Movement for the Republic], or will they include the whole of the democratic movement? There are still no answers to these questions.

As for the MDA, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, it will be received at the presidency on 10 April.

Sadi Comments on Talks

LD0304184595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Continuing the bilateral consultations currently under way between the presidency and the national parties and organizations invited for this round of talks, President Liamine Zeroual received today at the presidency a delegation from the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] led by Said Sadi.

Following this meeting, Said Sadi said: We, as democrats, have called for elections from the very beginning. According to Said Sadi, a number of issues were put forward for discussion in this meeting. Preparations for this process were dealt with. Said Sadi said: We expressed our hope that this date will be the start for a new move in the country's political life.

The issue of the Berber cultural movement's strike was raised during the same meeting. The RCD expressed its conviction of the need to reach a solution. According to the RCD leader, the solution should lie within the scope of transparency.

Sadi Comments on Upcoming Elections

LD0404154095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] After the PRA [Party of Algerian Renewal], MAJD [Algerian Movement for Justice and Development], and FLN [National Liberation Front], the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy] was received at the presidency yesterday. The RCD delegation, which held talks with President Zeroual, was led by Said Sadi, the RCD secretary general. The presidential elections are an answer to the current crisis. They can only be a means and not an end, Dr. Sadi said after the meeting. This is him:

[Sadi] *We think that these elections must be the opportunity for the country to overcome a historic obstruction and to move toward national renovation. This is a matter of political goodwill, and we shall have to discuss this again to see what this actually means.*

[Announcer] As for his assessment of the preparation of the presidential elections, the RCD secretary general is rather optimistic:

[Sadi] *At a technical level, concerning the security issue, the state of the administration, and the availability of the citizens, it seems the necessary means for the management of these elements can be implemented by the end of this year.*

[Announcer] The RCD also has some proposals, including the setting up of an election monitoring committee, an idea that has had a positive response from the head of state. Said Sadi:

[Sadi] *As far as the principle is concerned, the answer was positive. We must discuss the prerogatives of that commission, its composition, and who is going to set it up. We are saying that, when it comes to elections, it is only natural that as many as possible of the parties involved should have a say in any decision concerning the preparation or the management of these elections.*

FLN Proposes 'Broad Dialogue' After Cease-Fire

LD0404144695 Paris LCI Television in French 1300 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A turning point may have been reached in the evolution of the situation in Algeria:

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The FLN [National Liberation Front] is proposing to Algerian President Zeroual that the Islamists of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] be involved in a broad dialogue preceded by a cease-fire. Marc Berdugot reports:

[Berdugot] Following on after the FFS [Socialist Forces Front] and the FLN, the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria], Ahmed Ben Bella's party, a signatory, like its political rivals, to the Rome platform, has agreed to enter into a dialogue with the Algerian authorities. [passage omitted]

In the view of [MDA leader] Ben Bella himself, who was in Rome this weekend, nothing can be ruled out:

[Begin Ben Bella recording] Quietly, in talks between the regime and the parties, and even with the FIS, something really is in the process of happening. I believe that the regime is obliged to do something because it spoke of elections at the end of the year, and there has to be a consensus, otherwise there will be no elections. [end recording] [passage omitted]

FLN Still Undecided on Elections Participation

LD0404173795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN], said that a decision by his party on whether or not to participate in the coming presidential elections will be made by the party's Central Committee at the appropriate time. In this respect, Mr. Mehri, speaking at a news conference in El Djazaier hotel in Algiers today, said that the FLN position to such elections still depends on the authority's formula for holding the elections. Mehri said that the head of state had promised at his recent meeting with the FLN delegation that the FLN's proposals regarding the political situation in the country and its views on how to resolve the crisis will be studied. With regard to the party's position to violence, Mr. Mehri reiterated that the FLN is against violence, and that the party is not obliged to issue daily denunciation statements.

FIS Islamists Pirate Television Broadcast

LD0404161095 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] On the ground, the war continues, and now it is a war of the airwaves. The inhabitants of Oran were surprised as they watched Algerian television last Sunday evening. Just after the news, they were expecting to see a roundtable discussion with the prime minister, but instead they were treated to a debate in Arabic between two local FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders. Jerome Bastion reports:

[Begin Bastion recording] This is not the first time FIS Islamists have managed to broadcast their propaganda. The last time was 15 months ago in Algiers on a channel very close to the one viewers receive the sole national station on. [passage omitted]

This Sunday's pirate broadcast shows evidence of a more sophisticated organization than previously. This time, a commando took control of a local retransmitter in the Ain Defla region—the same area that the army has recently swept through. The men subdued the staff and played a video cassette that showed Islamist fighters in the rugged countryside, as well as discussions between different Islamist war chiefs, notably the Western region amir, Ahmed Benaicha, top lieutenant of the boss of the AIS [Islamic Salvation Army]; and Madani Merzak. This unusual broadcast replaced—probably not accidentally—a debate between the prime minister and some journalists, until the authorities realized what was happening and cut off the electricity supply. The commando then sabotaged the transmitter, depriving the inhabitants in a 100-km-wide region of television for several days. [end recording]

[Announcer] Three acts of sabotage were announced this morning by the Algerian press. The targets were a bridge, a telephone relay, and a pumping station.

Algeria's petroleum facilities are to be more closely guarded in future. The Interior Ministry has announced that four exclusion zones are to be established around the principal oilfields. The movement of persons and goods will henceforth be restricted to employees of the oil companies concerned and to local residents.

TV Correspondent Assassinated in Constantine

LD0404131195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the security services announced today that Mekhlouf Boukhzar, a sports correspondent at the Constantine television station, was assassinated in Constantine this morning.

Egypt

President Mubarak Meets U.S. House Committee

NC0504074595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has told the members of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee that Egypt attaches great importance to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as well as to the NPT's role in maintaining world peace and security. President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's support for the principle of a global commitment to this historic document and to the ongoing efforts to augment its legal power.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who attended the meeting, said that within the context of his briefing of the committee's members on Egypt's stand President Mubarak alluded to Egypt's achievements on all the

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tracks of the peace process. This Egyptian effort has made peace a collective commitment by all parties, the information minister added.

Continuing, the president said: Accordingly, it has become logical for us to ask Israel to relinquish its nuclear program and try to sign the NPT. In his briefing, President Mubarak said that the objective is not to cause problems or difficulties for Israel. Rather we intend to safeguard Egypt's national interests, maintain regional stability, and achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. The president noted that in the absence of all this, certain countries will consider nuclear programs and that would push the region into the nuclear arms race and endanger stability and peace in the region.

It should be recalled that President Mubarak and the members of his delegation took part in a working luncheon hosted by the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee. There was an in-depth discussion of all bilateral, regional, and international issues during the luncheon.

At the outset of the meeting, Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman welcomed President Mubarak, stressing that Egypt is playing a major and important role in the Middle East peace process. Gilman expressed the Congressmen's appreciation of this role, noting that President Mubarak's visits and meetings with the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee will always boost the relations between the two countries and this would reflect positively on the entire region.

Alluding to the good relations between Egypt and the United States, Gilman praised President Mubarak's desire to maintain good relations and a continuous dialogue. He said that President Mubarak always wishes to explain his views with sound and frank arguments. Gilman added that President Mubarak always has friends in the House of Representative and close ties with its members.

The U.S. official pointed out Egypt's important role and influence in the region and the Arab world. He described it as a leading role respected and appreciated by everyone. Gilman said that Egypt represents the basis for achieving stability in the region. He underlined the role that Egypt played during the Gulf crisis.

For his part, President Mubarak emphasized that Egyptian-U.S. friendship enjoys a great deal of support from both the Republican and Democratic Parties. The president expressed the desire to maintain a continuous dialogue and meetings with the House of Representatives and the Senate and to exchange views with them regarding various regional and international issues and the various aspects of bilateral relations.

The president said that Congress has for many decades endeavored to support the peace process in the Middle East. He pointed to the importance and effectiveness of cooperation between Egypt and the United States in the effort to safeguard peace and stability in the region.

President Mubarak sent a message of appreciation to President Bill Clinton for his support of the peace process and relations between the two countries. He said that the Egyptian-U.S. economic development cooperation and the recent partnership agreements will serve the mutual interests of the two countries, particularly in the spheres of investment, trade, and transfer of technology. The president stressed that the private sectors in the two countries will play a principal role in this field.

President Mubarak then explained Egypt's stand on the NPT. He said that there are no disputes with the United States over this treaty. Both countries agree on the need to make the treaty universal and to allow all countries to join the treaty. The dispute is over the nuclear program of Israel, which is a neighboring country with whom we have a peace treaty, President Mubarak added. President Mubarak stressed that Israel's nuclear program is vital to Egypt's security and that of the entire region.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak then answered questions put forward by some of the committee members. Answering a question about the peace process, President Mubarak explained that Egypt is the key to peace in the region. He referred to the late President Anwar al-Sadat's initiative and his visit to Jerusalem for meetings with [former Israeli prime ministers] Golda Meir and Menachem Begin. President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt had served as the gateway to peace and taken the initial steps in that direction. Thanks to this Egyptian role, the Arab states were convinced of peace 15 years later and realized that Egypt had not given up on establishing a comprehensive peace nor on its promises, despite the Arab boycott [of Egypt], Mubarak added.

President Mubarak stressed to the committee members that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East problem both in war and in peace. Accordingly, every effort must be made to increase stability for the Palestinian Authority [PA] and to expand its powers in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, the president added. In this regard, President Mubarak explained that the violence will not stop so long as the peace process faces obstacles and so long as the PA meets obstacles that prevent it from fulfilling its political, economic, and development roles. He noted that it is wrong to link progress on the Palestinian track to a complete halt to violence since this is bound to complicate things further.

President Mubarak then touched on the other peace tracks, particularly the Syrian track, and the efforts being made in this regard. He added that he will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad following his visit to the United States in a bid to give impetus to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

In response to questions on the NPT, President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt will not withdraw from the treaty

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and that it supports the universality and indefinite extension of the treaty if the other parties sign it. He stressed that Egypt is seeking to work out a formula that will serve the interests of both Egypt and Israel, adding that the two sides will soon hold meetings to narrow the gap. He noted the importance of preserving the national interests and taking into consideration the public's fears about the treaty. President Mubarak referred to the role that Dr. Mustafa Khalil, National Democratic Party deputy leader for external affairs, is playing to narrow this gap. He added that the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers will meet soon for that purpose.

The information minister added that a number of committee members had spoken during the meeting. They expressed their appreciation and admiration for President Mubarak, a world leader who merits appreciation and admiration and who is broad minded. In their remarks and questions, the committee members expressed concern over the consequences for the peace process posed by extremism in the region. President Mubarak explained that ongoing efforts aim to end these acts of extremism. As far as Egypt is concerned, he added, it respects the rights of all Egyptians and abides by the law and the Constitution. However, he stressed that Egypt cannot allow those who commit crimes to achieve their goals.

President Mubarak then answered the committee members' questions on U.S. aid to Egypt and Israel. He pointed out that he is not addressing the aid issue during his current visit to the United States, adding that Egypt is aware that this aid will not last forever, as he has acknowledged previously. However, he added, it is important that both Egypt and Israel be equally treated. He stressed that if there is a plan to reduce U.S. aid, this reduction must equally apply to both sides.

Mubarak Explains Position on NPT to U.S. Paper

NC0404185595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt's position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is objective and proceeds from its understanding of this treaty.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He said President Mubarak explained Egypt's clear position on the NPT in a statement he made today to THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR.

President Mubarak said in his statement to the American newspaper that if in the past Israel had some reasons to justify its failure to join the NPT, namely, that there was no peace, now, after 17 years of peace with Egypt and after achieving the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and signing a peace agreement with Jordan, it is essential for Israel to join the treaty.

President Mubarak explained that there can be no cooperation in the region in the next stage under any kind of threat.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt will not withdraw from the NPT because it is one of the 18 founding states. "But Egypt is declaring its position and is adhering to it: It is not for an indefinite extension of the treaty unless Israel signs," he said.

The president pointed out in his statement to the U.S. newspaper that the door is still open because the decision on this matter is dictated by the public interest. He said meetings between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel will take place to try to narrow the gap and reach an equation that achieves the interests of Egypt, Israel, and the entire region.

Mubarak To Meet With al-Asad After U.S. Visit

NC0504051595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that he will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad following his visit to the United States.

During his meeting with the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, President Mubarak said that his talks with President al-Asad are a part of the efforts to advance the peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Commentary Views Mubarak's U.S. Visit, U.S. Ties

NC0404145095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "President Mubarak's Meetings With U.S. Officials and Their Positive Impact on Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a day full of intense talks, President Husni Mubarak held important talks with several U.S. officials led by Vice President Al Gore and the secretaries of the Departments of State, Treasury, and Commerce to discuss political and economic issues. The president also met with a number of Congressional Democratic and Republican leaders. The Democratic leader stated there can be no peace in the Middle East without Egypt and that U.S. ties with Egypt are vital to both sides.

This fact, announced by the U.S. Congress, is absolutely in line with Egypt's policy on its ties with the United States. This is what [Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa confirmed when he said that the two sides agree on general issues and that if differences exist, they are over some regional issues. He also said that Egypt is continuously working to maintain constructive relations with the United States but this does not prevent disagreement in views on certain issues.

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In this context, President Mubarak's current visit to the United States takes on important dimensions. If the president's previous trips to the United States had their significance and positive results, the current visit and existing world and regional circumstances impart to the visit a special characteristic of great importance. On the regional level, there is a firm Egyptian stand on the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Egypt demands that no country in the region be exempted from signing this treaty on the grounds that this will cause disorder in the region's balance of powers and because it entails a threat to security and stability in the region.

It must be emphasized that Egypt's policy on peace is a strategic one and that Egypt has proven the credibility of this policy by deeds, not words. Egypt also contributes to every available opportunity to support the peace efforts in the region so that peace can be genuine and no nation or state in the region will feel impending danger. A sense of security provides stability and mutual confidence for all the region's nations and this is compatible with the aspiration of all the region's nations for peace.

This was expressed by President Husni Mubarak in his call to render the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction so that the region's nations may live in safety, peace, and stability.

This is not the only topic on the agenda of the talks. There are other political regional issues, including the current situation between the Palestinians and Israelis in light of Israel's lack of full commitment to implementing the Declaration of Principles between the two sides and also in light of the donor nations' slowness in fulfilling their obligations toward the Palestinian National Authority. Egypt has great concern about this point because this has negative effects on peace if the obligations are not met.

If the president's current visit has important political dimensions, some of which we mentioned briefly, the visit also has an important economic aspect, especially in the context of the partnership agreement between the two countries signed last month. This deal aims to encourage the private sector in Egypt, expand trade between the two sides, open U.S. markets to Egyptian products, and provide the opportunity for U.S. investment in Egypt so that this investment can replace U.S. aid in future.

Hence came President Mubarak's meetings with economic officials and with the trade and treasury secretaries. So we sense the magnitude of the efforts President Mubarak exerts on his foreign tours. These visits are conducted as a result of his determination to search for means to secure foundations for a strong, established economy and to get rid of all negative elements whose effects on the economy are still being felt.

Thus it is quite clear, as the president always asserts, that his foreign tours are devised to contribute to the strength of our economy and that cooperation with foreign countries provides Egypt with an opportunity to benefit from investments and technology.

Musa on 'Firm' Stance on NPT, Ties With U.S.

NC0404091995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 4 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reiterated Egypt's firm position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Egypt's position on the Treaty is quite clear, translated by the Arab League's recent resolution as well as the statements made by League officials, he added. Musa made these remarks to the BBC today.

Asked what the Egyptian stance would be if the United States insisted on the need for Egypt to sign the Treaty without adopting an effective measure compelling Israel to sign it too, Musa said he does not believe the United States is likely to insist on such a thing. He noted that the United States is Egypt's friend and Egypt is the United States' friend and a country with a leading and important role in the Middle East. He added: It is not the custom that a particular country should insist on a particular position to tackle a specific problem.

Asked about his expectations regarding President Mubarak's visit to the United States, as far as the Syrian-Israeli peace talks are concerned, Musa said a considerable portion of President Mubarak's visit to Washington is devoted to the peace process. He noted that a stalemate on any of the peace tracks is bound to harm the entire process. He emphasized the importance of action on the Syrian-Israeli track according to the framework agreed upon, on the basis of ensuring security for all the parties, or according to the principle of everything in exchange for everything.

On his expectations for Egyptian-U.S. relations, particularly U.S. aid to Egypt, the foreign minister said the aid issue is not on the table. He added: We have no problem with this issue that might make us worry or rush to discuss it. As for economic projects, there are no proposed projects but there is a framework for Egyptian-U.S. partnership in the economic, technological, and scientific fields. He noted that during President Mubarak's visit, the joint committee will meet in accordance with the agreement concluded between the private sectors in the two countries.

Musa noted that Egyptian-U.S. exchanges, concerning aid or economic partnership, cooperation in the peace process or any differences in views over a specific issue, indicate the overall positive ties between Egypt and the United States.

Musa Reiterates Demands on Israel for NPT

TA0504083995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 95 p 7

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by correspondent Hillel Kuttler in Washington on 2 April]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] 'Amr Musa is speaking about a changed Middle East, about trade and tourism, economic cooperation and open borders.

Those elements constitute what the Egyptian foreign minister sees as the "new order" developing in the region during a period of peace, a vision shared, he notes, by his Israeli counterpart, Shim'on Peres.

But Musa's vision is darkened by a cloud: Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Israel cannot maintain "its nuclear program while the era is a peaceful era, an era of cooperation and so on. This matter is a contradiction in terms," he said.

Accompanying President Husni Mubarak on a four-day working visit here, Musa said in a 45-minute interview on Sunday night [2 April] that Egypt has not modified—and will not modify—its demands that Israel be brought into the fold.

The battle over extending the 25-year-old treaty is now heading toward a climax. It comes up for renewal in two weeks at a UN conference. In recent months, Egypt has pressed Israel publicly and privately to sign the NPT and open its presumed nuclear facilities to inspection—to no avail.

The U.S. has called the NPT's extension a top national security priority, and the issue is sure to dominate today's White House meeting between Mubarak and President Bill Clinton.

Cairo's position has evolved somewhat: It no longer demands that Jerusalem sign on by the time the conference meets.

But in the interview, Musa for the first time laid out publicly exactly what Cairo now wants to see happen: First, Israel must agree, prior to the NPT conference, to discuss a nuclear-free Middle East beginning with the next meeting of the multilateral arms control and regional security (ACRS) negotiations. Second, it must commit itself now to joining the NPT group within about two years of signing peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon.

Musa rejected outright Prime Minister Rabin's and Peres's statements that only after a two-year period following agreements on a comprehensive peace with all Middle Eastern states and their neighbors—including Iran, Iraq and Libya—would Jerusalem consider widening the arms control agenda to include regional denuclearization.

Musa said, rather, that Cairo would consider a comprehensive peace to be in force once the remaining parties from the Madrid peace conference—meaning only Syria and Lebanon—sign treaties with Israel. It is then, he said, that the two-year period would begin.

Asked whether he saw any validity in the Rabin-Peres position, Musa said: "No. But one has to be fair. I cannot tell the Israelis not to think or not to worry about this or that situation. It's not a question of just (turning) a blind ear or eye to what they are saying."

But as to the perceived threat from Tripoli, Musa asked rhetorically: "What can Libya do to Israel?"

He added: "This in our opinion is completely unnecessary. What's Libya? If we talk about Iran, then comes Pakistan, then comes China, then comes Korea, then comes Japan. We are not entering into this game."

As for Baghdad, Musa said: "The Iraqis are under strict supervision... and clear-cut resolutions of the Security Council, and constant visits by a highly qualified group of supervisors. So there is not a threat by Iraq."

Musa dismissed Israel's argument that Iran's being a signatory to the NPT—while recently signing a nuclear power deal with Russia—proves the shortcomings of the nuclear agreement.

The treaty does not bar peaceful uses of nuclear energy, but these can generate weapons-grade material.

"If there is any violation (by Iran), let us know about it," Musa said in a deep, stern tone, while toying with the extinguished cigar he had been smoking minutes earlier.

"But they have the same right as any state member to develop (their) peaceful nuclear energy project. So there is no strong case except just fears"—Musa here articulated extra vowels, stretching the word as he slowly extended his left arm across the top of the sofa—"about the future."

If Egypt is to agree to any delayed time frame, Musa said, it would be only for when Israel commits itself to signing the NPT.

Musa insisted Cairo did not want to sweep the matter under the rug to alleviate tensions with the U.S.

He added: "Our position has not changed, and we are in no position to change it.... I want to tell you, it is not a matter of face-saving or compromises or a window just to get Egypt or any other country out of a certain situation that they want to get out of—no! The matter is very serious, touching on our national security, regional security, the future of the region."

And he took an indirect swipe at the Americans for adopting Jerusalem's position on the issue.

"The point is that Israel and some others do (view) everything... from the Israeli angle," he said. "Well, we look at things from a different angle."

If Israel agrees in the next two weeks to discuss a nuclear-free zone, it "will be a major step" for Egypt, he said. "It will be appreciated. It will open up the door for a general reconsideration of the situation."

But he did not state explicitly whether Israeli agreement on eventual talks to denuclearize the region and on signing the NPT would in fact result in Egypt's signing

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the NPT extension. Musa said Egypt "cannot do that without clarification" from Israel first on whether and when it will accede on both counts.

Egypt's position was endorsed by the March 22 Arab League meeting, Musa maintained. The group's decision not to reveal how it would vote on the NPT extension was taken in order "to give Israel another... chance to answer the Egyptian proposals on this question," he said.

Musa seemed unconcerned that the bitter dispute might sour Israeli-Egyptian relations in the long term.

"We are entitled to raise whatever problems we want to raise, as long as we are serious about it. So are the Israelis.

"But we also fail to understand why the Israelis would take any objection to a certain (Egyptian) problem with Israel as enmity....

"We disapprove and disagree on certain issues and, in my opinion, to my reading of the situation, this is the essence of normal relations.... The whole diplomacy of Israel, since 1948, was based on the word 'negotiations.' Why has the word 'negotiations' become a dirty word suddenly in the Israeli dictionary?"

Al-Baz on Reasons for Wanting Israel To Sign NPT

NC0204195495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 2 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 2 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al- Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stressed that Egypt's stand on renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] will be defined in light of Israel's stand and of Egypt's assessment of whether Israeli's stand is satisfactory.

In statements to MENA today, Dr. al-Baz stressed that Egypt does not want to weaken or disparage the NPT, but wants to bolster it by making Israel join it. He said: This issue is not a point of dispute between us and the United States but between us and Israel. We did not create it. He noted that exempting Israel from joining the Treaty would upset the balance of power and prompt other countries to take the same stand. He also noted that Egypt is not pressuring other Arab countries to take a specific stand on the Treaty but is warning the international community and the world that our regional situation must be taken into account when the fate of the NPT is discussed.

Dr. al-Baz went on to say: Egypt calls on the countries that want a positive stand on this Treaty to intervene with Israel and convince it to join the NPT. Egypt calls on the United States to cooperate positively with it to convince Israel to enter into serious negotiations to achieve security and safety for all.

He added: Egypt calls on Israel to agree to include the issue of the nuclear nonproliferation on the multilateral committee's agenda. He noted that Egypt is working for peace and was the one that took the initiative on eliminating weapons of mass destruction in the region.

He added: It is not reasonable for us to discuss regional economic cooperation between the Arabs and Israel on water, electricity, and environmental issues without having a clear picture of regional security and without there being a balanced security. There is a nuclear danger from Israel, which is 45 km from Egypt's borders, 60 km from the Saudi borders, and only four km from Jordan's borders.

Al-Baz added: The continuation of this situation gives other countries in the region a motive to embark on nuclear programs, which would result in a nuclear race that would threaten regional security. He noted that our vote on the Treaty at the conference that will be held in New York between 17 April and 12 May outside the UN's jurisdiction, remains open. Different stands could be taken, such as accepting or rejecting the Treaty's renewal, abstaining from voting, not attending, attending but not participating in the debate, or accepting it with reservations.

Referring to the contacts with the U.S. side and at the international level, Dr. al-Baz said that everyone now understands the Egyptian stand's fairness and reasonableness but they point out that Israel has a different view about the right timing for itself.

Dr. al-Baz added: Egypt does not want to belittle the regional considerations in contrast to the Treaty's globality. We asked Israel to join us in serious negotiations on steps that Israel will take in the near future to subscribe to the Treaty.

He noted that Egypt signed the NPT in July 1968 and the Treaty became effective in 1970. He said: Now, in view of the extension of the Treaty, Egypt believes that there are changes in the regional situation in light of the existence of an Israeli nuclear program, even though Israel has not admitted this so far. Considering the peace process, the progress made, and the cordon states' commitment to peace, Egypt believes that the time has come for Israel to sign the NPT so that there can be real peace and security in the region.

Economic Ties, Cooperation With U.S. Analyzed

NC0104124495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1105 GMT 1 Apr 95

["Analysis" by Suhayr Jirjis]

[FBIS Translated Text] Undoubtedly, President Mubarak's visit to the United States, which begins today, will play a great role in increasing and consolidating economic relations between the two countries that will witness great development in the coming phase.

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Because of his belief in the need to enhance economic ties between the two countries, President Mubarak will intensify his contacts with U.S. economic officials. He will meet with the secretary of trade and treasury, director of U.S. aid, and new chairmen of U.S. Congress committees.

President Mubarak's trip to Washington follows the initiative of the partnership for development, which established an organizational framework for economic relations between the two countries. The partnership initiative included a series of agreements and the formation of a group of executive committees under the chairmanship of a presidential council comprising President Mubarak, President Clinton, senior officials, and some private sector men from both countries.

The Egyptian-U.S. partnership initiative, which was signed on 21 March, is regarded as a new channel for economic cooperation between the two countries and confirms their bilateral relations. This initiative reflects the U.S. Administration's appreciation of the Egyptian economy and Egypt's economic reform efforts.

In addition to the partnership initiative, there is also the U.S. aid program that Egypt views as a way of benefiting both sides under which Egypt obtains U.S. aid worth $2.1 billion.

Indications are that there is a great opportunity for boosting Egyptian exports to the United States.

Columnist Criticizes U.S. Policy in Gulf

NC0304091095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 8

[From the "Close-Up" Column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Playing With Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Clouds are gathering over the Gulf region as a result of persistent U.S. policy, which is increasing tension to the point that it threatens to ignite a new crisis in the region. The reason lies not only in the unfairly imposed sanctions on Iraq and the emerging crisis of the trial of two U.S. soldiers who entered Iraqi territory, but also in U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's statement accusing Iran of stockpiling chemical weapons and missiles at the Hormuz Strait and on the small islands whose sovereignty Iran and the United Arab Emirates are disputing.

What is worrying now is that the "dual containment" policy that the United States is pursuing against both Iraq and Iran on the pretext of safeguarding security and stability in the Gulf has itself become one of the factors of tension and is threatening stability and creating worrying internal situations in the Gulf region. The U.S. security guarantees and military presence there are useless vis-a-vis these domestic situations.

What draws attention is that many of the U.S. allegations about the dangers threatening the Gulf now raise doubts about U.S. credibility and the goals the United States seeks to the point that it prompted the Saudi defense minister to hurriedly issue a denial of the U.S. secretary of defense's statement. The Saudi minister made his statement after Iran denied the U.S. allegations and was supported by Russia and France. Russian intelligence sources stated that the U.S. claims that Iran is acting to develop its nuclear program are not true, that they have found no evidence to support these accusations, and that Iran's nuclear potential is the same as that of 25 other countries.

These U.S. claims caused a crisis with Russia and France when the United States leaked reports that France sold missiles to Iran in a secret deal to prevent Iran from exercising any terrorist activity in France. France denied these accusations and proved with conclusive evidence that the missiles were sold to Cyprus and not to Iran.

The problem here is that the United States, in view of its resources as a superpower, is capable of stirring up or calming down the situation with its statements and warnings, which the countries concerned cannot confirm. When two big powers like Russia and France affirm that the U.S. claims are untrue, then the U.S. stances on the Gulf region must be considered with great caution. The Gulf countries must take into consideration the fact that there is no lasting congruity in the interests with a superpower like the United States.

The question that arises here is whether the "dual containment" policy has become a mere tool for serving U.S. interests alone and whether these interests take precedence over the Gulf countries' interests and their need for stability and peaceful neighborly relations among all countries of the region.

Suspected Muslim Brotherhood Member Interrogated

NC0404183495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution Office today began interrogating Husam-al-Din Sayyid Husayn, assistant treasurer of the Doctors' Association, who was arrested on the orders of the Prosecution Office for his involvement with members of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Prosecution Office accused the defendant of contacting foreign circles and of helping to send a number of terrorists to Bosnia-Herzegovina for training on the use of weapons and explosives through his work with the Doctors Association's Relief Committee. It also accused him of joining an illegal group in violation of the law and the Constitution.

The security forces seized with the defendant a number of video cassettes involving the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood, computer discs, a quantity of various foreign currencies, and a number of organizational papers about the organization's actions abroad.

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Remand of 10 Muslim Brotherhood Members Extended

NC0404195995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, public attorney for the High State Security Prosecution, has ordered the extension for 15 days of the remand of 10 Muslim Brotherhood suspects, including Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, member of the Doctors Association Council.

The prosecution also ordered the release of three suspects who were held in connection with the case.

The prosecution had made many charges against the suspects, including membership in a group that was founded contrary to the provisions of the law through holding a series of organizational meetings for the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group.

Muslim Brotherhood Official Discusses Arrests

NC0404201895 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 10

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guide, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SAFIR] You are accused of representing the rigid "extremist" views within the Muslim Brotherhood. How would you answer this?

[Mashhur] Those who say this do not know the Muslim Brotherhood's special traditions. They completely ignore that our course is to preach in good and kindly counsel and wisdom in line with the Prophet Muhammad's parable to preach God's ways through wisdom and good counseling.

[AL-SAFIR] But it is well known that you ran the group's special apparatus known for its use of armed force.

[Mashhur] My membership in the Muslim Brotherhood's apparatus before the [Egyptian 1952 July] Revolution does not mean that I am an extremist or lean toward violence. "The special apparatus" was established for a noble cause: resisting the Zionist gangs in Palestine and the British in Egypt. This apparatus no longer exists.

[AL-SAFIR] It is also known that you are the strong man and certain people even see you as the real general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Mashhur] This is untrue. The general guide is Hamid Abu-al- Nasr. I am only his deputy and do what I am asked.

[AL-SAFIR] Since the Muslim Brotherhood calls for the ideas and views it believes in, why not apply to the parties affairs committee to declare the Muslim Brothers party like all other political groups in society?

[Mashhur] The Muslim Brotherhood is a group and not a party, in the sense that it does not seek power. Also, where is the parties committee? We know that there is no committee for parties or a court for parties. The parties committee is governmental and that is why we prefer to remain only as an Islamic group.

[AL-SAFIR] You are being accused by the highest level, the latest accusation was made by the head of state, that you encourage acts of terrorism. What is your views of these accusations?

[Mashhur] We in the Muslim Brotherhood are surprised by these occasional accusations and wonder about their purpose. We maintain that if there is evidence why do they not provide it? The authorities have been conducting interrogations with all trends over the past 25 years and have arrested people on mere suspicion. Nevertheless, they have not accused any member. Why do they make these accusations now? We believe that the goal is to distort the image of the Muslim Brotherhood before the public, after the regime sensed the people's positive response to the group.

[AL-SAFIR] You always say that you are not seeking power, but you are planning to control the trade union associations.

[Mashhur] I want first to ask about the meaning of the term "planning." Is a doctor, engineer, or teacher who endorses the Muslim Brotherhood thoughts forbidden to participate in the elections? They are members of the professional associations and they have a right to run.

[AL-SAFIR] While you fight to control the professional associations you have not firmly decided your stance of whether you will participate in the People's Assembly elections?

[Mashhur] We are waiting for the government's decision. The government has not yet decided its stance on the issue of the election guarantees, which all national forces emphasize.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the future of the existing alliance between you and the Labor Party and the Liberal Party?

[Mashhur] There is an alliance and we hold on to it, but the Muslim Brotherhood has not defined the form of the next coordination. Therefore, the previous Islamic alliance still exists according to the old conditions.

[AL-SAFIR] How would you explain the recent arrest campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood's leaders and activists?

[Mashhur] We in the Muslim Brotherhood view these arrests against certain leaders as a precautionary measure by the government should the group run in the elections. It has felt first hand their success and strength within the professional associations.

[AL-SAFIR] How many Muslim Brotherhood defendants are there?

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[Mashhur] A small number and most of them have been released.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the accusation against them?

[Mashhur] The constant accusation is active membership in a banned group.

[AL-SAFIR] And practicing acts of violence?

[Mashur] I have said and say again that we have nothing to do with violence. Our stance is well known and you can read it in our statements and literature.

[AL-SAFIR] What is your stance on the groups that practice violence? Are there common threads between you and these groups?

[Mashhur] We have no connection with these groups because they have their own methods and beliefs and we have ours. Their activities take place underground whereas we act in broad daylight. Many years ago, Imam Hasan al-Banna [founder of the MB] would make speeches everywhere and no one would bother. We have thousands of published books that are on sale. It is difficult to have common threads with these groups or to adjust to them.

Report on al-Minya Governorate's 'Terror Triangle'

NC0204120895 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 29 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following several weeks of calm, there was a fresh eruption of bloody clashes between terrorist groups and the security forces in al-Minya Governorate last week.

The terrorists launched three assaults in which 17 policemen and civilians were either killed or wounded. The police also carried out three operations during which seven very dangerous terrorists died.

A security source has revealed that the terrorists exploited the security gap represented by the lack of defense measures for passenger trains, used by a large number of policemen, to carry out an assault on a train. They also exploited the fact that untrained police recruits were used for sentry duty at officers' clubs in Bani Mazar to carry out another attack.

The source explained that the train operation was the most serious terrorist attack and was initially designed to kill more than 50 police recruits in order to embarrass the province's security officials and force the government to dismiss Security Director Major General 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar who has been resolutely confronting the terrorists.

The source pointed out that the most serious terrorist pockets are now located in what is described as the "terror triangle" of the villages of al-Mahras, Naway, and Itqa. The plantations of the three villages overlap each other's boundaries, making it easier for the terrorists to unite their command, distribute weapons, and issue orders to the three groups at the same time. Moreover the members of the three groups know the area very well and can, via a complex network of routes, reach any area in the governorate. This makes their encirclement by the security forces very difficult.

The source added that the three groups draw strength from the presence of organization leader al-Bashir Kamal and two of his most dangerous associates, Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz and 'Atif Rajab Tighyan. The last two have been sentenced to death in absentia in connection with the previous Asyut incidents. Additionally the three groups are under the direct command of three very fierce men. They are Tawfiq Hassan in Naway, Ahmad 'Ali Sayyid in al-Mahras, and Hasan 'Abd-al-Baqi in Itqa. They are assisted by Rida Zaydan and 'Abd-al- Salam Zaydan, propagators of the concept of armed clash until the last breath.

The security source remarks that a crushing blow against the terror triangle and its component groups would decide the battle in al-Minya Governorate almost totally.

Arab Removal of Anti-Israel Boycott Criticized

NC0304101595 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Who Has the Power To Repeal the Boycott Decision?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision to impose an Arab economic boycott against Israel, issued following Israel's establishment and still generally valid, was made by a unanimous Arab League vote. It involves a boycott against the international companies and establishments that deal with Israel, which has remained in a state of war and enmity against the Arab world since its emergence. Israel is still in a state of war and enmity against a fraternal Arab country, Lebanon, blockading Lebanese coasts and shelling Lebanese buildings and public facilities in the south.

If some Arab countries rushed to establish relations with Israel after the achievement of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which led to the launching of the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho, they did so without any consultations or understanding with the Arab League. This was reflected in the slow pace of the peace process, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks.

There is no doubt that the decisions by certain Arab governments to abolish the boycott against Israel have boosted Yitzhaq Rabin's position toward peace with Syria and Lebanon. The Israeli authorities admit that the canceling of the Arab boycott, although limited so far, has helped the Israeli economy recover.

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Since the boycott decision was and still is a unanimous Arab decision, any change affecting it must be subject to the opinion of the Arab League, which issued the decision. Any individual Arab decision on the boycott will only help the Israeli economy, which is suffering acute crises, and deepen Israel's stubbornness concerning its pending conflicts with some Arab countries. Therefore, an emergency Arab League session or an Arab summit should be held soon to adopt a unified Arab position on the economic boycott decision and the conditions that must be met for its abolishment.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Meditate Between Sudan, Uganda

Uganda's Mseveni Comments

AB3103214095 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kampala, March 31 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will mediate between Uganda and Sudan to help the two countries iron out their differences over alleged support for each other's armed opposition, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said Friday [31 March].

Speaking upon his return from a three-day official visit to Kuwait, Museveni said Uganda was ready to attend a meeting in Tripoli aimed at "sobering up our relationship."

The meeting will be convened on a date yet to be set by al-Qadhdhafi, whose country faces UN sanctions for failing to hand over two suspects allegedly linked to the bombing of of a Pan Am jetliner over Scotland in December 1988. The blast killed all 270 passengers on board.

"It is true this meeting is on and Uganda is ready to attend it. It is being organised by the Libyan leader, and we're going to tell them about what we think Sudan's problem is," said Museveni who declined to elaborate.

Uganda and Sudan have been at loggerheads over insurgent groups each party accuses the other of aiding.

Kampala has accused Khartoum of aiding rebels from Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which is headed by former Catholic preacher Joseph Kony. The group is battling Ugandan Government forces in the north and northwest of the country in an effort to topple Museveni and replace him with a religious administration.

Sudan, for its part, charges that Uganda is aiding John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been battling Khartoum's forces since 1983 to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Moslem Arabised north.

Sudan also accuses Kampala of giving sanctuary to SPLA rebels, who normally retreat into Uganda whenever their bases inside Sudan come under heavy aerial bombardments and mortar attacks by Sudanese Government forces.

Sudan's Salih Arrives for Talks

LD0204182895 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Tayr [April] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mohammad al-Zubayr Salih, the vice president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah to take part in the Libya-Sudanese-Ugandan meetings due to be held in the Great Jamahiriyah within the context of the efforts being exerted by the Great Jamahiriyah to settle African issues by Africans themselves away from foreign intervention.

Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis [Jabir] headed the ceremony welcoming Mohammad a-Zubayr al-Salih on his arrival at Tripoli international airport. Also taking part in the ceremony were the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, Armed People's Officers and members of the Sudanese embassy to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mohammad al-Zubayr Salih made a statement to JANA's correspondent expressing his pleasure and that of the delegation in his company at their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He said' this visit is part of the continued fraternal consultations between the two sisterly countries. He stressed the depth of current fraternal ties between the Arab people of Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Mohammad al-Zubayr Salih [words indistinct] by a delegation including the Minister of Information and Culture, 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, and the Minister of State to the Presidency, Dr. Mustafa [name indistinct].

Talks Begin in Tripoli

LD0304170795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1416 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 3 Apr—The Sudanese-Ugandan meetings began in Tripoli this morning to discuss relations between the two countries and to establish a dialogue between them aimed at strengthening these relations within the framework of the constructive efforts made by the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] to reconcile Sudan and Uganda and strengthen the revolutionary theses that there is no alliance for Africa except with itself, Africa for Africans, and "No" to foreign intervention.

Taking part in the meeting, which was attended by Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, from the Sudanese side: First Vice President Mohammad al-Zubayr Salih and

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Dr. Mustafa Uthman, minister of state at the presidency; and from the Ugandan side: First Deputy Prime Minister Eriya Kategaya; Henry Kajura, minister of trade and industry; and Amama Mbabazi, minister of state for defense. The meeting was also attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, and the Ugandan charge d'affaires to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Col. 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting, in which he welcomed the members of the Sudanese delegation led by Mohammad al-Zubayr Salih, vice president of the Republic of Sudan, and the Ugandan delegation led by the deputy prime minister to the Great Jamahiriyah. He saluted their quick response to the initiative made by the brother leader of the revolution to build bridges of trust between the Sudanese and Ugandan peoples and leaders.

He said that the initiative stemmed from our feeling of responsibility toward brothers in Uganda and Sudan, and the historic relations of revolutionary struggle that had been built by the brother leader of the revolution, Sudanese President 'Umar al- Bashir, and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. [passage omitted]

Brother Mohammad al-Zubayr Salih, first vice president of the Republic of Sudan, also made a statement. in which he praised the efforts of the brother leader of the revolution and his concern for Sudanese and Ugandan issues. [passage omitted]

He added, however, that the stability of Sudan is linked to the stability of Uganda and vice verse. Furthermore, the two countries are in dire need of such stability for the sake of development, stability, and regional peace.

He indicated, nonetheless, that the current tension in Sudanese- Ugandan relations, although a serious one, could be resolved and that relations could be improved if our good intentions are matched by serious and joint efforts to tackle our problems together.

He added, however: We would like to stress here that we have come to these talks with open ears and minds. The Great Jamahiriyah could, given its excellent relations with both Sudan and Uganda, contribute in reducing tensions and eliminating their causes, he insisted. [passage omitted]

Jabir, Salih Discuss Relations

LD0404142695 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir and brother Muhammad al-Zubayr Salih, first deputy president of the brotherly Republic of Sudan, yesterday evening discussed means of bolstering the brotherly relations between the two brotherly countries in a way that would serve the common interests of the sons of the same Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

Sudan

President al-Bashir Holds News Conference

Discusses Cease-Fire, U.S. Ties

EA0104191295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Apr 95

[Report by 'Uthman Ahmad al-Zubayr on news conference by President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir with international correspondents on 31 March; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Zubayr] In his news conference, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, met representatives of more than 50 media and press organizations from different parts of the world. He answered a number of questions by these journalists. The first question was: Where have the mediation efforts to establish peace between the government and the rebels reached, and where have the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] efforts, and the initiative of former U.S. President, Jimmy Carter, reached, and what are conditions in the south really like after the liberation of al-Nasir?

[Al-Bashir] [Word indistinct] conditions in the south. [passage indistinct] The government now controls more than 90 percent of the territories of the south. The Sudanese Armed Forces have the complete initiative. The liberation of al-Nasir proves that. Despite the fact that it is the main stronghold of one of the major factions of the rebellion—the al-Nasir faction—the Armed Forces managed to liberate this town without any losses. The Armed Forces seized large quantities of motorized vehicles, arms, ammunition, and equipment as booty.

Despite our victories, and despite our military superiority, and despite the ability of the Armed Forces to achieve more victories, when the cease-fire initiative of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter came, we accepted it despite the fact that everybody knows that we are in the dry season which is the season that allows the free and large-scale movement of the Armed Forces. We did so because our aim is not war.

Our aim is not to achieve a military victory or to crush the rebel movement militarily. Our aim is rather to reach a political solution to the problem of southern Sudan, and if we are ultimately able to crush the rebellion militarily, our choice is to sit and talk, to hold discussions to find a solution to the problems that our brothers, some of our brothers in the south, talk about. We are seeking a permanent and just solution to the southern problem.

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The IGADD initiative is an initiative by states in the region. We accepted this initiative because we know that the states in the region are directly affected by the war in southern Sudan. We believe that they are just as concerned about the importance of achieving peace, security, and stability in Sudan because it is part of regional security and stability.

However, we have observations to make regarding the IGADD initiative: The effort made before the start of the negotiations was not adequate to prepare the agenda or even to prepare the negotiations. We also did not see any effort being made between the various sessions of the negotiations, thus the lack of positive efforts up to now. However, we are still committed to the IGADD initiative, and we support this initiative. We have been talking with our brothers in the IGADD states about the best ways of making this initiative successful, to achieve its goals, God willing.

[Al-Zubayr] This is another question by a news agency correspondent about the government's violation of the cease-fire in the al-Nasir area.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] I heard just a few hours ago on the CNN that the guerrilla [movement] has accused the government of violating the cease-fire in Nasir. Are you aware of any military activity there?

[Al-Bashir] No, our forces entered al-Nasir without any resistance. That is, they did not encounter any resistance worth mentioning in al-Nasir [words indistinct]. All information indicates that the rebel forces fled before the entry of the Armed Forces into al-Nasir. They are now attempting to enter Ethiopia as refugees. There was no resistance worth mentioning in the al-Nasir area that would allow us to talk about a violation of the cease- fire. There have been no other operations in the al-Nasir area after the Armed Forces entered it and established peace.

Actually, the attacks referred to are attacks by the rebels. We knew very well.... [pauses] we have no confidence in the rebels, and we told President Carter this. We have no confidence in the rebel forces. We have no confidence in the rebel leaders. They will talk about the Armed Forces violating the cease-fire. It is known, and we are fully aware of the fact that given the chance, they will violate the cease-fire without any hesitation.

There was an earlier cease-fire which was announced under the auspices of the IGADD states. That agreement was violated by the rebel forces with an attack on Kapoeta Town, and everybody knew about the preparations for the attack on Kapoeta. The relief agencies were withdrawn from the Kapoeta area. Americans in particular were withdrawn from Kapoeta before the attack occurred and the announced cease-fire was violated. We did not hear any comments or protests then.

However, now all powers are talking about Sudan and human rights in Sudan, and about the ongoing war in Sudan. They are also talking about the government's lack of goodwill.... [pauses] the government's intention to resolve the matter militarily. When the rebels are violating the cease-fire there is silence. (?Now there is) no silence but accusations against the government for violating the cease-fire. We are going to hear this again and again but we declare our commitment to the cease-fire. We are a people who stand by what they say, what they pledge.

[Al-Zubayr] In another question about relations between Egypt and Sudan, and neighboring states in general, the president answered by saying:

[Al-Bashir] In fact we can say relations with Egypt are still tense because the reasons for the tension still exist. We can summarize the reasons for the tension into two things: Egypt's occupation of the Hala'ib triangle, and Egypt's giving refuge to all components of the Sudanese opposition, including the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]. It has an office and a recognized representative in Cairo. Indeed the opposition finds all the support, backing, and financing it needs from the Egyptian authorities.

In regard to the other neighboring states, our relations with Eritrea are known. Eritrea was born in Sudan. [sentence as heard] Our relations with Uganda did not develop as everybody would have wished because of the Ugandan Government's unlimited support for the rebel SPLM. Our relations with the rest of the neighboring countries are excellent. With Ethiopia, Kenya, Zaire, Central Africa, Chad, and Libya, relations are excellent, distinguished, and very cooperative.

[Correspondent] Did President Carter's efforts include any attempt to improve relations between Sudan and the United States? What are your conditions for normalizing relations with the U.S. Administration? Is there an initiative from your side in this regard?

[Al-Bashir] Of course, President Carter is not an official, but this does not negate the fact that he has close relations with the U.S. Administration. Our experience with President Carter is that he is a man who has credibility.

We all heard his statement when the United States included Sudan in the list of states that foster terrorism. He announced courageously that the U.S. Administration did not have any evidence for condemning Sudan. He also made remarks to the effect that the West's fear of Islam is an unjustifiable fear.

On the basis of this we have confidence in President Carter. He promised to make an effort to improve relations between Sudan and the United States. Our condition for the improvement in relations is noninterference in our internal affairs. We shall not accept any dictation from any quarter to steer our internal or external policies. [passage omitted]

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Denies Aiding Algerian Militants

AB0104200195 Paris AFP in English 0045 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, 1 Apr (AFP)—Sudanese head of state Omar Hasan al-Bashir on Friday [31 March] denied that his government had been aiding Islamic militants in Algeria, who have launched an armed struggle to overthrow the military-backed government there.

Al-Bashir, addressing a press conference here, also declared that Sudanese Government forces were in control of 90 percent of southern Sudan, where they have been trying to put down a rebellion by Christian and animist rebels since 1983.

The president was speaking during a gathering here of Islamic fundamentalists from some 80 countries. He said Sudan was trying to establish an "Islamic model adapted to the modern world."

In Algeria, where Islamic-inspired militants have been battling security forces since January 1992, al-Bashir said his government was not implicated in the struggle. "Even if we wanted to, we don't have the means to help them," he insisted. "We don't interfere in Algerian affairs and the Sudanese Government has no connection with any (Algerian) organization whatsoever."

Algerian groups, apart from the small An-Nahda party, are not represented at the conference here, although a delegation from one of the leading religious opposition movements, the Islamic Salvation Front, had been expected. [passage omitted]

President al-Bashir Receives Somalia's Ali Mahdi

EA0304181095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President of the Republic General Umar Hasan Amad al-Bashir got acquainted with latest developments of the Somali crisis and current situations in the wake of the international forces' departure. This came while al-Bashir met in his office at the Friendship Hall with the Somali delegation, led by Ali Mahdi Muhammad, [who is] currently taking part in the Third Session of the PAIC [Popular Arab and Islamic Conference].

Al-Bashir emphasized Sudan's keenness and readiness to solve the Somali crisis peacefully.

On the other hand [as heard], Ali Mahdi, in a press statement, said that the meeting had tackled cooperation between Horn of Africa states for reinforcing security and stability in the area. He also called upon Sudan Government to play a great role in solving the Somali crisis. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Holds Meeting With New UK Ambassador

EA0404193695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, received the credentials of new British Ambassador Alan Goulty to Sudan at the Republican Palace this morning.

The British ambassador stressed his deep-rooted relations with Sudan, having worked in Sudan for a number of years. He expressed desire to strengthen and promote relations. He stressed that he would endeavor to promote peace and stability, particularly in the south of the country, as well as promoting the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states and humanitarian relief efforts for the war and disaster victims.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir said the British ambassador's previous work in Sudan could help toward bringing about cooperation based on mutual respect. He stressed that peace and stability were goals the government was trying to bring about by means of dialogue and negotiations in implementation of the internal peace program. In this context he welcomed diplomatic efforts which did not violate international rights and conventions and were firmly based on the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the options exercised by others.

Foreign Ministry Official on Talks With Uganda

EA0404200395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first Vice President of the Republic, Major General Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, has stressed Sudan's readiness to resolve all outstanding problems between it and Uganda. He said this during a meeting in the context of his current visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, attended by a member of the historic leadership of the 1st September revolution, Colonel Abubakr Yunus, and the Ugandan vice president.

Speaking from the Foreign Ministry's regular forum today, the ministry's first undersecretary, Ambassador 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, welcomed the initiative of the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and his efforts to resolve the disagreements between Sudan and Uganda. He said what Major General Al-Zubayr had stressed at the 30th Arab League summit was consistent with Sudan's foreign policy of non-interference in internal affairs and adherence to the UN and Organization of African Unity charters.

His excellency expressed the hope that the Libyan initiative would help resolve the differences between the two countries and promote relations between them.

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Riak Machar Rebel Faction Declares Cease-Fire

AB0304214795 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 3 Apr 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rebel southern Sudan independence movement led by Commander Riak Machar has declared a cease-fire today. Last week, the Khartoum Government announced the unilateral cessation of hostilities, and it was swiftly followed by a similar offer from John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] movement. Both were at the request of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who appealed for peace in order to allow his organization to carry out their humanitarian work in the south. But today's offer by Riak Machar's forces follows a recent defeat by the Sudanese Army, which captured the rebels' former base at Nasir. Riak Machar is currently in Nairobi, and on the line Robin White asked him if anyone had made a request for them to stop fighting.

[Begin recording] [Machar] I met President Carter on the 25th of March, and he told me about the program which is being championed by the Carter Center, and I told him if Khartoum is going to accept it we would definitely accept it, because it benefits our people.

[White] So, has all fighting now stopped?

[Machar] Well, I want to state that we have delayed declaring a unilateral cease-fire because Khartoum, after they captured Nasir and (Chod Bor) on the 25th, proceeded on the 27th and attacked us by the 30th of March in Maiwut, so we had to struggle with that until we beat it off; and again on the 31st of March, Khartoum attacked again (Lafon), where we beat them miserably, capturing their commanding officer with two T-55 tanks. Since then, it is only the militias of Khartoum that are still fighting us.

[White] But the regular army has stopped.

[Machar] Up to this morning, there is no movement which has been reported, but militias that are loyal to Khartoum are still fighting us.

[White] Who are these militias?

[Machar] Well, the PDF [expansion unknown]-Mujahadin and other groups.

[White] So these are government-sponsored militias?

[Machar] That is right.

[White] Now, how bad a beating have you taken over the past couple of weeks?

[Machar] Fighting is not good. People lose friends, (?soldiers), and all that.

[White] How many men have you lost recently?

[Machar] I can't tell you, but a number.

[White] So, what do you want to happen now? I mean, it is one thing to declare a cease-fire, it is another thing to make a cease- fire stick. What do you want to see happen now?

[Machar] Well, I hope 'Umar al-Bashir can control his troops, the militia that are loyal to him, and the campaign on guinea-worm and river blindness go ahead. [sentence as heard]

[White] So to your troops sitting out there somewhere in southern Sudan, what are your instructions to them today?

[Machar] My instructions are that they should keep to the terms of the cease-fire. They should be on alert in our own territory, and defend themselves only if aggressed. [end recording]

Ummah's al-Mahdi on Accords Among Oppositionists

MM0404151095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Mubarak al-Mahdi, official in charge of foreign affairs in the Sudanese opposition Ummah Party and former interior minister, has confirmed that the Sudanese opposition forces have managed to settle the differences which impeded their joint work over the past two years and "are moving toward real unity following the unification of the opposition in the north and south with the signing of the Chukudum and Asmara agreements and the expansion of the area of agreement between the parties" of the north.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday after several meetings with opposition leaders, al-Mahdi said that his party had reached agreements with the Sudanese Communist Party and the "Army's Legitimate Command" organization, and formed two joint committees with them, and a third such committee with the opposition Democratic Unionist Party.

He said that these committees were given the tasks of "enhancing relations between the political forces and bridging their views on issues related to the program for the escalation of the struggle and unification of opposition action leadership abroad."

He also said that the meetings "produced agreement by the parties to speed up the holding of the opposition conference called for by Colonel John Garang (leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement)."

He said that the Sudanese political forces had agreed to form a committee, including members of a committee already formed by John Garang, representatives of the parties of the Democratic National Grouping, and some patriotic figures, to prepare for the conference.

The preparatory committee will this week discuss an agenda proposed by Garang, and some other topics. In a

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letter addressed to the opposition leaders, Garang had called for a conference to discuss "setting out a clear mechanism for the escalation of the struggle to bring down the regime and draw up programs which can be implemented in a specific period of time, assign roles for the opposition factions, draw the lines which separate military, civilian, internal, and external action, confirm agreement on the tasks of the transitional period (that would follow the regime's downfall), define the length of that period, finalize agreement on pending issues, define the nature of external work and agree on an appropriate formula for managing it, agree on suitable ways of escalating the armed struggle to ensure it is not monopolized by any party, and settle the question of participation of the unions in the grouping."

In reply to a question about the confusion regarding the grouping's fifth conference and the leaders conference called for by Garang, al-Mahdi said that "both will discuss the same agenda, and there is no conflict of objectives between them. The objectives are:

"1. Drawing up a unified program for governing Sudan in the future.

"2. Agreeing on a program for escalating the struggle.

"3. Agreeing on a unified opposition leadership in the next phase."

The preparatory committee is expected to hold its first meeting today under Unionist Party Leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

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Joint Saudi-Yemeni Committee Concludes Meeting

Yemeni Officials Receive Counterparts

JN0404185395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Shaykh 'Aballah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives; brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Irayni, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development received Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and head of the Saudi side to the joint military committee, and the members of his delegation.

At the outset of the meeting, the speaker welcomed the head of the committee and his delegation in their second homeland, Yemen, and wished the committee success. He hailed the strong fraternal relations between the two neighboring countries, and thanked the head of the committee for the good efforts made to realize the tasks assigned to the joint committee.

For his part, the chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation in Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the General Staff and head of the Yemeni side to the joint military committee and the committee members.

Delegation Departs; Talks Detailed

JN0404212395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saudi side to the Yemeni-Saudi joint military committee led by Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of General Staff in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, left Sanaa this afternoon at the end of a four-day working visit to our country during which he attended the second round of talks of the joint military committee which concluded today.

At the end of the meetings, the following statement was issued:

The Yemeni-Saudi military committee held its second round of bilateral talks in Sanaa 1-3 April 1995. The talks were characterized by a fraternal spirit and joint understanding of the way to implement the principles and tasks that had been agreed on in implementation of Article 5 of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Governments of the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The two sides agreed on the importance of continuing the committee's efforts to discuss the mechanisms and means for implementing the memorandum at the third round of talks to be held in Riyadh.

The Saudi chief of general staff and his delegation were seen off by Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, the chief of general staff of the Armed Forces and members of the Yemeni side to the talks, and representatives of the presidency's protocol department, and brother 'Ali al-Qutaybi, Saudi ambassador in Sanaa.

Kuwait

Minister Announces Tightening of Border Security

LD0404174195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1647 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 Apr 1995 KUNA—Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah stressed today that Kuwait will work to strengthen its security potential so as to face the incursions which have taken place along the northern and eastern borders.

In a statement to journalists after a closed session of the National Assembly devoted to the problem of infiltrations through the Iraq-Kuwait border, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that the strengthening of security will include the human and material potential and the border trench set up all along the northern border. I will also include studying the possibility of setting up other obstacles so as to prevent infiltrators from crossing the Kuwaiti border. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, Shaykh al-Sabah stressed that the issue of the two Americans who entered Iraq by mistake is one of the reasons which urged members of the National Assembly to call for a discussion of the border situation. He said: "The importance of protecting our friends' lives was stressed in addition to the fact that two other Kuwaitis also got lost and mistakenly entered Iraq." [passage omitted]

Report Says Iraq May Revoke Recognition of Country

MM3103133195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 4

[Report by Faris al-Salman: "Report by National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee Says Iraqi Opposition Does Not Exclude Possibility That Baghdad Will Revoke Its Documented Recognition of Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—A report prepared by the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, to be distributed to deputies at the beginning of next month, says that the Iraqi opposition and the state of Kuwait agree that "post-Saddam Husayn Iraq should have a democratic system which upholds liberties, human rights, and good-neighborly relations."

It says that the "Kurdish call for the establishment of a [Kurdish] state in northern Iraq has now changed to a

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call for the implementation of their basic rights as an ethnic entity." The report, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy, adds that "this change is the result of the continuous rejection of a Kurdish state by the states where Kurds live." The report, prepared by the political researcher Mansur al-'Utaybi, says that the aim of the opposition is to change the political regime, which, the Kurds maintain, should emerge from within Iraq and should be brought about by the people and the Army by toppling the present Iraqi regime. The opposition also wants a unified Iraq based on democracy, partisan pluralism, and opposition to the idea of partitioning Iraq, consolidating the Kurdish autonomy region in the north, and annexation of the oil-rich Kirkuk Governorate.

On the concentration of the opposition in the northern region, the report points out that "the reasons are mainly the international protection for the autonomy region in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 688, which condemns the Iraqi regime's repression of Kurds in the north, allows visits by humanitarian organizations, and establishes a prohibited zone north of the 36th parallel. That is in addition to the international support for the Kurds in northern Iraq and Iran in particular, and the concentration of the Iraqi Kurdish opposition parties in northern Iraq, especially the Iraqi Kurdistan Front headed by the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan."

On the opposition's relations with the state of Kuwait, the report emphasizes that "the opposition views Kuwait as an independent sovereign state that exists in history, geography, and politics," and believes that "the Iraqi regime's recognition of the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait and resolution 833 on border demarcation came late and came not as an indication of change in the regime's policy" but rather "as a result of a sense of weakness and danger because of the embargo, with the possibility that the Iraqi regime might revoke and back down from that recognition on various pretexts." The report stresses that "the Iraqi opposition and Kuwait agree that the economic sanctions against Iraq should continue" and adds that "both sides reaffirm that the sanctions are not an end but a means of ensuring implementation of all the UN resolutions related to the war for the liberation of Kuwait."

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd To Depart Riyadh 'for Rest'

LD0304131595 Riyadh SPA in English 1227 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, April 3, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz will spend some days outside Riyadh for rest, it was announced here last night.

Council of Ministers Views Yemen, Oman, Chechnya

LD0304201795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 3 Apr—His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, presided over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon, 3 April, at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

In a statement to the Saudi news agency SPA after the meeting, Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud—minister of state, member of the cabinet, and acting information minister—said that at the noble instruction of the crown prince, the council, at the start of its meeting, reviewed brief reports on the most prominent developments and events concerning many main issues and their successive developments.

In this context, the council expressed its satisfaction at the second round of meetings of the Saudi-Yemeni military committee, held by the joint military committee following the arrival of the Saudi military team in Sanaa yesterday, 2 April, led by General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces.

The military committee discussed at its session the issues on its agenda on the basis of Article 5 of the memorandum of understanding between the Kingdom and Yemen, signed in Mecca on 26 February. The two sides have stressed their eagerness to give impetus to the committee's work in a way that will ensure its continued progress toward the achievement of its aspired goals, which will strengthen the bases of understanding between the two countries for the benefit of the two neighboring brotherly peoples and consolidate their firm brotherly relations. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Mas'ud added: His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, briefed the council on the positive role adopted by the Sultanate of Oman on security cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states with the endorsement of the security agreement by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, which will have a positive effect on security coordination among GCC member states and their citizens.

His excellency the acting minister of information pointed out that, through its follow-up on the international events currently taking place, the council considered that the situation in southern Lebanon and the dangerous escalation there constitutes a stumbling block on the road to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He emphasized that unless Security Council Resolution No. 425, in connection with Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, was implemented completely, the situation will deteriorate further and the danger will become more serious on this important track of the peace tracks in the region.

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In this context, the council expressed its anxiety and resentment at the situation in Chechnya as a result of the Russian forces' continued destruction of Chechen towns and their inhabitants, and the expulsion of those who escaped outside their country. The council stressed the need to offer material help and humanitarian assistance, and secure the means for this assistance to reach the aggrieved and homeless among them. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Deputy Minister on Security, Drugs, Explosion

JN0204214595 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 17

[Interview with Deputy Interior Minister Husayn Muhammad 'Arab by Ahmad al-Jabli in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jabli] How do you assess the overall security situation in the aftermath of the May-June war in Yemen?

['Arab] I would like to thank AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I newspaper for its concern about the overall situation in Yemen. Your very presence here at the Interior Ministry today proves that.

Let us say that before the war, security in Yemen possibly reached its worst situation. But when war began, most of the attempts to breach security stopped because of the citizens' awareness and high spirits and because of our extreme eagerness to maintain security during that period. [passage omitted]

In fact, we have recently focused on the major issue of drugs. The Interior Ministry has seized at least 50 kg of heroin, a large quantity of hashish, and 250,000 hallucinatory pills. This means that some people are using Yemen as a crossing station to neighboring countries. Therefore, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih firmly instructed the Interior Ministry and the security organs to make every effort to prevent the use of Yemen as a crossing station for such dangerous materials. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabli] You have announced the arrest of a number of gangs which tried to destabilize security in the country. What is the nature of these gangs, and do you believe they have political motives?

['Arab] The security organs have arrested a large number of gangs, including criminal and politicized ones, which came into existence as a result of certain interests and the previous situation of the country. As a result, some people wrongly believed they could breach security. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabli] A law regulating the possession of arms in cities was enacted a long time ago. Yet, people continue to carry arms in Sanaa and other major cities?

['Arab] As you know, in general, the Yemeni people carry weapons, but, contrary to what is being said, the Yemeni people will respond to measures to organize this issue. However, we are taking tangible steps in this direction. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabli] We have heard reports of human rights violations and the existence of political prisoners in Yemen. Are these reports true?

['Arab] We have heard and read such reports too. However, those who have doubts about this can come to Yemen and visit its prisons. We reassert that we do not have any political prisoners in Yemen. Those who fought along with the separatists are now among us, doing their jobs normally, and are receiving their salaries.

So, these reports are baseless, but there are hostile forces that are trying to capitalize on these issues. As I have told you, the Yemeni jails will be opened for anybody who wants to see what is going on in them.

[Al-Jabli] What about the recent explosion in the dynamite store in al-Hudaydah, and have your investigations unveiled any new details?

['Arab] So far, we have no evidence that it was a criminal act. This large quantity of dynamite which was stored in al- Hudaydah belonged to the Roads and Bridges Corporation. The hot atmosphere there, the long period of storage, and bad storage conditions might have caused the explosion. [passage omitted]

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Mediation in Case of Detained Americans Rejected

JN0404152495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad today rejected, through Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, any international mediation in the issue of the two Americans who were sentenced to eight years imprisonment for illegal entry into Iraq. Ramadan said: If any country wants to embark on mediation it must do so for the sake of the 20 million Iraqis, who are imprisoned without any food or medicine, a reference to the international sanctions imposed on Iraq for more than four years.

INA Clarifies 'Aziz Departure for U.S.

JN0404133195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has reiterated Iraq's rejection of the U.S. draft resolution and said that it was unjust, unable to solve any of our problems, threatened Iraq's national unity, and hampered the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687.

Tariq 'Aziz said that UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 were distorted and do not achieve this objective. Rather, they achieve colonialist objectives seeking to control the Iraqi oil wealth, divide Iraq, and dominate its destiny. Therefore, we have firmly rejected those two resolutions and, for the same reason, the latest U.S. draft resolution, which does not differ from the two above-mentioned resolutions.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency before leaving Baghdad for New York today, Tariq 'Aziz denied that Iraq rejected, as the Americans and their allies alleged, the idea of selling a limited quantity of oil to buy basic humanitarian needs. He pointed out that the idea of selling a limited quantity of oil to secure these needs, particularly food and medicine, for the Iraqi people was originally a proposal that Iraq presented in 1991.

Replying to a question on Iraq's stand on the U.S. draft resolution if positive amendments are carried on it, the deputy prime minister said: This is a hypothetical question. If substantive, positive amendments were introduced into the draft, then we would be looking at another draft. Then, we would look at the new draft and decide what position to adopt in light of the basic constants in our position. Those constants state that any arrangement of this kind must not obstruct or delay the full implementation of Paragraph 22 and must not include any interfering conditions that harm Iraq's sovereignty and national unity or constitute future shackles.

Speaking about why he is visiting New York Tariq 'Aziz said: As for our visit to New York, it is for two reasons. First, we want to follow up on the report that will be submitted by Ekeus on 10 April. We will explain our position on that issue to the Security Council members. Second, we want to explain our position on the U.S. draft resolution directly and in detail to the UN Security Council, and we will seek to thwart it. It should be noted that this draft has come under strong criticism by a significant number of Council members.

Al-Sahhaf Reviews U.S. Draft Resolution

JN0204185795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Apr 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Baghdad Television moderator Faysal al-Yasiri in Baghdad on 30 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Passage indistinct] [al-Sahhaf] I would like to explain to you and to the citizens [words indistinct] the truth about this resolution. Regarding the existing situation, for example, we ordered spare parts for the mills. The U.S. representative sitting there—who is perhaps a Zionist—may not approve of this because the Iraqis may use the spare parts for other purposes. Who is going to discuss it with him? Thus, spare parts for mills will be rejected. Perhaps another order is possibly medicines, and, for example, life-saving medicines. This actually took place. I am not saying hypothetical things. They rejected pencils for the Iraqi children. Hence, even his list, in this humiliating manner....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] Cannot secure approval.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, yes. To complete the picture, let us suppose [words indistinct] and ship it. What do they do naturally [words indistinct]? For example, they perhaps [word indistinct] and say: We want it in packets, 10 kilograms each, and you should print on the cover of the packet that the Security Council has approved this through your money, oil, and other means. They mean to tell the Iraqi citizen: It is not up to your national government or you; we will either feed you or starve you.

Flour and other things were shipped, and they continued to watch these things. The observers are appointed by the [UN] secretary general in accordance with the U.S. draft resolution and Resolutions 706 and 712. They examine things, and any one of them is authorized to say: No, these are not the specifications [words indistinct] required for the flour, thus [word indistinct] and ban it.

Each of the observers is authorized to agree or reject [words indistinct]. Suppose it has arrived, they would say: No, it should go to al-'Aqabah. Hence, it went to al-'Aqabah, and they kept observers in al-'Aqabah who unloaded it [words indistinct] and loaded it in trucks. However, they intercepted the flour in (Turaybil) where they unloaded it and examined it [word indistinct] where was it heading for? For example, it was heading for the Trade Ministry warehouses, so they stayed at these warehouses, unloaded it, and examined it.

Where would the flour go? It would be distributed among the agents according to the ration card. There are many

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employees of UN agencies working in Iraq, who are tasked with [words indistinct] watching, and writing reports. He said: Had it not been for so and so. Perhaps, a Norwegian porter who worked for the United Nations was sent to us as an expert. We should supposedly give him the immunity and privileges granted to the United Nations.

[Al-Yasiri] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Sahhaf] [Words indistinct] their cards. To simplify it for you, any Iraqi citizen now [words indistinct]....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] Is this the so-called spider web in distribution?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes.

[Al-Yasiri] In other words, it is the mechanism of action such as the sale of Iraqi oil, and the purchase and distribution of commodities.

[Al-Sahhaf] All this. These are the restrictions and terms.

[Al-Yasiri] This is the spider web ...

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] Yes. I gave you a copy of them, Faysal. These are the same ones included in Resolutions 706 and 712. Since 1991, the Iraqi experts at the Oil Ministry have analyzed and translated them into a procedural map. Hence, when one [words indistinct] it, he can know the deliberate administrative complications which are mentioned in all contexts of Resolutions 706 and 712, which they (?kept) as they are in the new U.S. draft resolution in addition to entrenching the secession or the conspiracy of secession—may they be accursed—in northern Iraq.

They kept another condition in the U.S. draft resolution. As you remember, Mr. Faysal, the duration of Resolutions 706 and 712 is six months. In other words, if Iraq made a strategic mistake it will be [word indistinct] six months. This will become a precedent. We rejected this. The new resolution says every six months, every 180 days the UN Security Council will carry out a review every six months. [Words indistinct] Under Chapter 7 the U.S. draft resolution makes it obligatory to maintain the embargo. The resolution says it has nothing to do with the perpetuation of the embargo on Iraq. The resolution legalizes this unjust embargo. The resolution also says that one exception will be made to Resolution 661 issued in August by allowing Iraq to pump its oil [words indistinct] thus, during the six months, ostensibly 4 billion [words indistinct] a year.

[Al-Yasiri] You will pump 4 billion every six months?

[Al-Sahhaf] No, no. The new draft resolution, to decieve the people and the world public opinion [words indistinct] Resolution (?706). They resorted to a subterfuge [words indistinct] when I tell you [words indistinct] you hear the Voice of America and [words indistinct] you will only hear the words that they will say, polished, and improved....

[Al-Yasir, interrupting] And that the Iraqi Government now is responsible?

[Al-Sahhaf] Well said. What is intended from all this is to deceive you. Who will follow up on the details? Only the specialists and the technicians, and they master these subterfuges. In practice, this draft resolution does not increase the sums [words indistinct] Mr. Tariq ['Aziz] immediately grasped this point so that no one will be deceived. They make believe that they had increased the sums. This is a lie. They did not increase the sums. They increased the money they themselves take. What is more serious is that they want to earmark the $200 [figure as heard] to entrench the secessionist conspiracy.

[Al-Yasir] Every three months. The result is that the sum will be less?

[Al-Sahhaf] Exactly. Suppose [words indistinct] less than one quarter of the present ration card.

[Al-Yasiri] Mr. Minister, let us explain this important point to the public. If this spider web is implemented, they take their shares, steal what they want, and then we get our share and it is distributed to the people. If the remaining figure is distributed, we will get one quarter of what is distributed each year under the ration card.

[Al-Sahhaf] Even if we monthly pump [oil], after all these restrictions, the loss of independence and sovereignty, the perpetuation of the embargo, and the foreigners controlling your natural resources, you will get less than one quarter of the ration card Iraq has implemented. [Words indistinct]

[Al-Yasiri] And this will be distributed among us in a humiliating manner, as if we are refugees in our country and these are relief organizations which distribute to us this one quarter of the ration card?

[Al-Sahhaf] Exactly. Iraq has repeatedly said in more than one forum that all those who support Resolution 706 and the U.S. draft resolution seem to be still dreaming that they can turn the Iraqi people into a group of refugees. They want to give us donations.

[Al-Yasiri] Mr. Minister: Let us return to the question you have partially tackled. Why was that [word indistinct] draft resolution?

[Al-Sahhaf] The question is why was it adopted now? [Words indistinct] over the past four years and eight months, that is, a few months less than five years, Iraq and the majority of the Security Council have admitted, through a comprehensive implementation of the original Resolution No. 687, that despite our suffering due to prolonging and procrastination, Iraq continued, and we have now reached the last stages. In other words, we have reached the last things, which are secondary. The other parties admit this. So, we are at the last stage.

[Al-Yasiri] You mean lifting the blockade?

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[Al-Sahhaf] Lifting part of the blockade, that is, lifting the oil embargo, as well as the embargo on materials of Iraqi origin. We do not talk about the embargo on Iraq's right to import. We would like to talk only about our basic wealth like [word indistinct] sulfur, phosphate, dates, and all the other materials produced by Iraq. Paragraph 22 says that if Iraq meets demands pertaining to the so-called weapons of mass destruction, the tools of blockade on exporting Iraqi goods will be null and void. We are now about to attain that, although, as I previously told you when I mentioned Paragraph 22, Iraq should have attained that in the spring of 1992. But due to U.S.-led conspiracy against Iraq; to other reasons, which have become known to our society; and to the suffering, the blockade should have ended in the spring of 1992. Now, despite all their wicked ways to prolong it, [words indistinct] we are now getting very very near to the implementation of Paragraph 22, which means lifting of the embargo on exporting Iraqi oil. This paragraph does not contain all these conditions that deprive Iraq and the Iraqi people of their independence, freedom, and sovereignty and of their wealth. All this does not exist. There should be a reasonable agreement in accordance with the same resolutions. We said we will let them take $300 million, which is 30 percent of [words indistinct]. I would like to say again how unjust these resolutions are. The same resolution includes this clause, but with certain rules that should be honored when the amount of money to be paid to them is calculated. All these rules are violated. Before this, the American, who is the reason behind all the blockade, alleges that he is concerned about the Iraqis who are suffering [words indistinct] if the purpose is humanitarian [words indistinct] they want to take the maximum. The Security Council says no. The money that Iraq has to pay to the compensations fund should be calculated in light of the needs of the Iraqi economy and its operation and growth. All the needs of the Iraqi people, servicing Iraqi debts, and all the needs of Iraq [words indistinct] 2 percent and may be 1 percent or 5 percent.

[Al-Yasiri] They demand the highest ceiling, that is, 30 percent at a time when Iraq is in need of that money.

[Al-Sahhaf] They lie and say the draft resolution is humanitarian.

[Al-Yasiri] Its introduction is with you. Can we read the first lines of the draft resolution to the people?

[Al-Sahhaf] The U.S. draft resolution says: As it is concerned with the serious nutritional and health condition of the Iraqi civilians, and in light of the danger of more deterioration in the condition. These are the first lines. Despite this, they will take 30 percent, will take $200 million to carry out the conspiracy [word indistinct], will take $100 million for the Special Commission, and will recommend the secretary general to take $10 million, another $10 million.

[Al-Yasiri] All this is the sweat of the Iraqi people.

[Al-Sahhaf] They want to take Iraq's money twice. But the real problem is the food situation. [words indistinct] They want to feed the Iraqis. So, they will bring an army of food distributors and controllers.

[Al-Yasiri] [Words indistinct] they want to bring people to distribute food [words indistinct].

[Al-Sahhaf] The Americans say this is a humanitarian issue. I want to ask again: Why now? We do not want to be unfair to anyone. The situation is clear for all. The 1992 spring is history. Now, three permanent members of the Security Council have prepared and distributed a draft resolution.

[Al-Yasiri] To lift sanctions partially.

[Al-Sahhaf] It is a French-Russian draft resolution which was backed by China and supported by a good number of non-permanent members of the Security Council. When the draft resolution is discussed at the Security Council it will gain more support. After Ekeus presents the few secondary, insignificant, and worthless issues, that will be the end of it. No force then can cover his ugly face and no one can then say more should be done. The Americans have felt that the atmosphere and world public have changed.

[Al-Yasiri] The international stand has changed?.

[Al-Sahhaf] The situation inside the Security Council has changed. When they found out that Iraq's many friends are now speaking about the real suffering of the people of Iraq as a result of five-years of starvation and injustice their talent produced this exposed draft resolution whose introduction refers to the serious nutritional and health condition and which contains everything in in Resolution 706. They also added two serious things: First, supporting the desperate attempt to separate northern Iraq; and second, giving life again to the dead Resolution 706, which was limited to six months, by proposing this resolution which has no timeframe limit. At the same time, they want to maintain the sanctions. Is this a hidden plan? Absolutely not. It is an exposed plan, and the remarks addressed to the Americans by even their friends are not only tough, but also painful. Officials in the government of a very friendly country of America said the U.S. plan is not only disappointing, but will also embroil America's friends.

[Al-Yasiri] So we can say that this draft resolution is deceiving because this resolution, which will make people think that the Iraqis will receive $4 billion, is in fact a tactic to circumvent the situation, as well as a deception at a time when nations began to call for lifting the sanctions on Iraq in accordance with the provision of Paragraph 22. It seems that the situation became embarrassing to the Americans who presented this draft resolution. Your Excellency the Minister: What is your view of the future? How will things move in the future?

[Al-Sahhaf] Faysal I want to answer this question again. For the second time, I want to say to you at this

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particular time that the Americans, as well the two countries which are deprived of their will and support them—namely, Britain and Argentina—gathered all that they have in store. The permanent representative of Britain randomly said something incorrect. Meanwhile, his foreign minister was more frank. On 15 March, LE FIGARO interviewed British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd on Europe and other issues. Asked about Iraq and the U.S. draft resolution, Hurd said frankly, unlike his ambassador to the United Nations: I warn against President Saddam Husayn—[word indistinct] the leader president, and I am quoting what he said—I warn against President Saddam Husayn and Iraq. Do not lift the sanctions on them. We do not want [words indistinct]. We hope we will continue to impose additional conditions regarding the blockade. However, we should adhere to all the existent restrictions related to the sanctions on Iraq.

David Hannay, British ambassador at the United Nations, made his exposed attempt. He said that the draft resolution was being presented for humanitarian reason and Iraq's only choice was to accept it, adding that so far he had not heard a response. The statement of Mr. Tariq 'Aziz and the contacts and statements made by our permanent representative in New York have explained Iraq's stand. He is trying to make others believe that they have not received a response from Iraq. He then contradicted himself and said: The Iraqis cannot respond now because, so far, we have not distributed the draft resolution. They can no longer camouflage the purpose of their draft resolution. They know that they are aiming the last arrow in their quiver in a desperate attempt to distract the attention of others or to weaken the determination of others to implement Paragraph 22, which only meets part, not all, of Iraq's rights. However, we said: Yes, let us begin with Paragraph 22 and then we will continue work to lift all the other sanctions. So, these are the objectives of this draft resolution, in addition to the two serious objectives—namely, escalating the plot of partitioning Iraq; and continuing the blockade as long as possible, because this draft resolution is not for six months but can be renewed.

[Al-Yasiri] In other words, could it be an alternative to Paragraph 22?

[Al-Sahhaf] The Americans and their allies seek to obstruct the implementation of Paragraph 22 which is now valid. What will happen now is that the other members of the Security Council, who are not deceived by this, will adhere to Paragraph 22. Also, there is a French-Russian draft resolution, which is backed by China and other members. The U.S. draft resolution is a hysterical attempt to distract attention and undermine the front of Iraq and its friends. In fact, this is the content of the draft resolution.

[Al-Yasiri] Your Excellency the Minister, as you have said, we know that this draft resolution adds nothing to Resolution 706 and 712, or to its complicated mechanism. Also, this will humiliate the Iraqi citizen if he accepts such a thing. How do you explain the fact that the United States—through its institutions and experts—presents such a draft resolution. Do you expect that Iraq, which rejected this in many talks, particularly the famous negotiations which were held in Vienna on the resolution, and which has been rejecting this since 1991, can accept anything of this?

[Al-Sahhaf] The one who follows how the United States implements its policies will have the impression that they are now playing their games with exposed cards. There are many reasons for this. However, the draft resolution shows that they are in a weak and besieged position. They used to give orders and instructions while sitting in their offices. The situation is now different. Why? We do not want to deal with the changes in the world, but we want to say that Iraq has aborted all their pretexts.

The Security Council, particularly the members who are fair and those whose interests are undermined as a result of the U.S. policy, which is very selfish, is no longer capable of... [pauses] America tries to deprive even the states which are not against it of their interests, or to obstruct their interests. Why? I believe it is a desperate attempt by the only superpower in the world. They use their propaganda and lies just to delay the implementation of Paragraph 22. They seek to obstruct the French—Russian draft resolution. They included in their draft resolution all the restrictions in Resolution 706 and added more to achieve the objective which they laid down when they prepared for the 30-state aggression against Iraq—namely, to control oil sources, and Iraq is important in this regard. They imposed their hegemony over others and failed to impose this hegemony over Iraq. Therefore, this is a desperate attempt to adhere to the same unrealistic policy which will certainly fail in issues related to Iraq. They used all the swords in their possession. They wanted to say that we want to review the same humanitarian resolution which was rejected by Iraq. Those who supported Iraq from 1991 until this resolution was issued, they did so because Resolution 706 was (?exposed). So they made changes in the language of the resolution; that is, formal changes, to make others believe they are amending or improving it. Meanwhile, it is the same resolution, but with different phrasing. Also, they added two very serious articles.

[Al-Yasiri] Dear viewers, this draft resolution, which some people would imagine is better than the first resolution, is a political maneuver and a new document. It would be appropriate to end this meeting with His Excellency Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf with a remark made by the foreign minister today in his response to the statements made by David Hannay, British representative at the Security Council. Our Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: They imagine that the people of Iraq do not understand facts or their rights and that they do not know who is plotting against these rights.

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We hope that this meeting with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has highlighted another side of the facts. Thank you Mr. Foreign Minister.

Talabani on Kurdish Fighting, Turkish Invasion

NC0404193395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1522 GMT 4 Apr 95

["Translated excerpts" from Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani's statements to representatives of Kurdish parties at a meeting held on 2 April; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] First, I welcome and thank you for taking this stance against us. You took a stance against us twice. Although I do not agree with the substance of your stances, I still thank you because you have had at last the courage to take them.

In fact, I would like to talk to you about the substance of your stances. Regarding your statement about our position vis-a-vis the Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party [IKDP], I will talk to you about this in detail. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] was the first Kurdish force that established ties with officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran before and after the Islamic Revolution in Iran. We had ties with Imam Khomeyni before the Islamic Revolution when he was in al-Najaf al-Ashraf. I had ties with Imam Khomeyni before and after the PUK was established. I personally organized Iran's relations with Libya after the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

I do not hide from you the fact that we were the main supporters of the IKDP in its battles against the Islamic Republic's forces when the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] was fighting them [words indistinct].

Brother Jalal Talabani added: Our ties with the Islamic Republic improved before and during the [1991] uprising. After the uprising, I made a successful visit to Iran at the latter's invitation. They warmly welcomed us and I met with his excellency the Iranian president and other officials. [Words indistinct] on one condition, namely not to allow the IKDP forces to attack Iran from our territories and across the Kurdistan region's territories. But the IKDP did not cooperate with us. It froze its activities for a short time but resumed its military activities in Iran from our territories. It thus reneged on its pledges and the pledges I made to Iranian officials that the IKDP would not attack Iran from our territories.

During Kurdistan's civil war when we criticized the brothers in Iran for their military cooperation with the KDP and the Islamic Movement, they replied: Why are you cooperating with the KDP? Since the IKDP is in areas under your control, then the KDP and the Islamic Movement must have bases in Iran against you. The Iranian officials laid down two conditions for not having military cooperation with the KDP and the Islamic Movement against us. The first, that the IKDP gunmen should not undertake military operations in Iran from our areas. The second, that their radio should not operate from areas under the PUK control. We spoke to the brothers in the IKPD about these two conditions and beseeched them to cooperate with us because we were encircled by the Iraqi regime from the west, Turkey and the KDP from the north, and Iran from the east. But they regrettably did not cooperate with us.

On the closure of the IKPD radio and the Kurdish parties' statement that denounced this stance, which they regarded as an undemocratic measure, brother Talabani said: I ask the brothers in the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan who were the first to sign this statement: If you are opposed to this stance, then let the IKPD radio operate from the Islamic Movement's areas. You are all aware of the strength of the PUK, which ignited our people's revolution. But I tell you frankly that the PUK cannot fight simultaneously the Iraqi regime, Iran, Turkey, the KDP, the Islamic Movement, and others. Each party has limited resources and capabilities. [passage omitted]

Brother Talabani then summed up the factors that unite the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PUK as follows:

1. Both Iran and the PUK fought Saddam Husayn's regime.

2. Iran has good relations with our Shiite brothers. We are also their allies.

3. Iran has good relations with the Iraqi opposition and we are part of this opposition. [passage omitted]

Brother Jalal Talabani blamed the Kurdish parties for their silence on the treacherous stabs that the KDP recently directed at the back of the PUK. This was at a time when the forces of the PUK, the other Kurdish parties, and the INC were busy confronting the forces of the hostile Iraqi regime, which were amassed on the contact lines with Kurdistan.

On peace and a cessation of the internal fighting in Kurdistan, brother Jalal Talabani said that the PUK accepts any plan to bring about peace and end the fighting. He said the party will show maximum flexibility provided that this peace is radical and comprehensive. He expressed the readiness of the PUK to pull out of Irbil provided that the KDP pulls out of the Salah-al-Din resort and the areas around Irbil. He summed up: The PUK accepts peace, but rejects capitulation.

Brother Jalal Talabani discussed the recent operations that the Kurdistan peshmerga and the followers of the INC launched to confront the aggressions of the Iraqi regime forces on the contact lines and their brutal shelling of heavily populated areas—operations viewed by the KDP as a scenario fabricated by the PUK. He explained: We did not initiate those operations. Our participation in repulsing the attacks of the dictatorial regime was in response to a general call addressed by the INC to all opposition parties. Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, Staff Major General Wafiq al- Samirra'i, and others testify to

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this fact. The INC called on us to participate in a general national operation against the Iraqi regime. We, in turn, informed the brothers at the INC that preparations for that operation needed time, but they insisted that it be carried out. We agreed and expressed our readiness to participate provided that the KDP stop its fighting against us. The KDP accepted this in a letter it sent through the brothers at the INC. The letter was written by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman and signed by Mas'ud Barzani. In the letter, the KDP pledged to participate in that national operation on the Mosul sector. It promised that 1,000 of its fighters would join the battle on the Karkuk sector in return for 1,000 of our troops joining the battle on the Mosul axis.

Brother Jalal Talabani added: This operation, therefore, was a comprehensive national operation approved by the INC, the PUK, the KDP, and others. How, then, can it be considered a scenario made by the PUK? The only difference between us and the KDP is that we kept our promise and participated in the operation, but the KDP broke its promise and failed to participate. The KDP did so after Turkish General Hasan Kundakci told Mas'ud Barzani, during their meeting in the Turkish city of Silopi, not to take part in this national operation. This is the difference. Unlike the KDP, the PUK acts on its own will and no foreign conditions are dictated to it.

Brother Jalal Talabani added: We still insist on assuming this national role because we consider this year an important one to bring down the dictatorship in Iraq. If the international embargo against Saddam Husayn is lifted, he will prosper once again, and this will lead to the collapse of the regional government [of Kurdistan], of the Kurdistan parliament, and of this democracy. And you, brothers in the Kurdish parties, will be greatly harmed because Saddam Husayn is not the enemy of only the PUK, but also your enemy, and the enemy of everybody.

Brother Jalal Talabani added that he informed the brothers at the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq of the need to engage in a joint national action against the dictatorship. He said: We cannot possibly stand with our hands tied, and we have to use the available opportunity, which we and you effectively helped create. Along with us participated the peshmerga of the Kurdish Communist Party, the Kurdish Democratic Socialist Party, the Kurdistan Workers Party, the Kurdish Independent Action Party, and the Assyrian brothers. You all know how effective these heroic operations against the regime were, you know their good impact on our masses, and you know the booty we seized from the dictatorial army of the regime.

He added: Not only did the KDP refuse to join the operation, but it stabbed us in the back while we were engaged in the operation. Moreover, the KDP prevented the forces of the INC and the Kurdish Communist Party from joining the operations in the areas under its control. So why did you not take a position? Why did you not say a single word of truth or denounce the back stabbing of the national forces while they were fighting against Saddam Husayn? [passage omitted]

On the issue of customs revenue in the (Bahdinan) area, the lifeline for the Kurdistan region's population, that were seized on 1 May 1994 by the KDP, which is looting and depositing the revenue in foreign banks in the accounts of the family controlling the KDP, brother Talabani said: The PUK does not agree to any bargaining over this issue because this money belongs to the people and not to this or that party. This money belongs to the afflicted Kurdish people, who are suffering from harsh living conditions. He reiterated that the PUK is ready to allow a committee from the Kurdish parties, the INC, and financial experts to audit the accounts of all banks and customs revenue in all Kurdish areas since 1 May 1994 to this date. If it is then proved that a single dinar went to the PUK, then we are ready to return it. The other side, the KDP, has also to return all the revenues and income it seized it from the (Bahdinan) area. I reiterate that no bargaining whatsoever can be made on this issue and we will never concede it. He added: However, I do not mean by this that we will continue to fight the KDP because of this issue but will continue our media campaign against it and will continue to expose it at the Kurdish, Iraqi, and international levels until the day it returns the last cent of the people's money it has seized. [passage omitted]

Talabani continued: If the KDP agrees to abide by its national duties within the framework of the INC and agrees to fight in the same trench with the people against the dictatorship, then the PUK will show more flexibility toward ending the in-fighting, specially on the issue of normalization in Irbil.

On the Turkish military actions in Iraq's Kurdistan, the PUK secretary general said: Turkey did not consult us or seek our agreement when it launched this military operation. Although we have not taken a strict stance of military confrontation or propaganda but a calm diplomatic stance, we have told our friends abroad to convince Turkey to withdraw its forces from the Kurdistan region. A Turkish delegation is scheduled to visit us soon to discuss this issue. Our stance is that the Turkish forces should withdraw. He added: Turkey has the right to have a security strip to defend itself, but within the Turkish borders and not in the Kurdistan region.

He said he is worried by some Turkish officials' statements about the need for the Kurdish parties to enter into a dialogue with Baghdad's dictatorial regime. He said: We completely reject this.

Concluding his statements to the Kurdish parties' representatives, he thanked them all and expressed his readiness to explain all the issues in detail anytime they want for the sake of peace and stability in Kurdistan. He also expressed hope that all the goodwill efforts to establish peace will succeed.

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Daily Lashes Out at Arab League Secretary General

JN0404092395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has described Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's statements against Iraq as paid personal opinions.

In an article today, the paper says: 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has lost his credibility as an Arab League secretary general because for several months, he has been bragging about his well-known slogan "frankness before reconciliation." He has clearly become a private secretary for the interests of the Kuwaiti rulers and a spokesman for them.

The paper adds: 'Ismat has lost his role as an Arab League secretary general after he revealed that his plan for Arab reconciliation is only a plan aimed at receiving money, exercising cheap blackmail, and getting more of the bribes and money received by his sons in some Gulf capitals, where they have interests linked with their father's undeclared projects.

The paper clarifies: The "payment" channels among 'Ismat, the Kuwaiti rulers, and others have another objective, especially since the man is now convinced that his Arab scandals will force him to leave the league sooner, and therefore those rulers will support the renewal of his post.

The paper says: In his statements, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid did not say anything to indicate he is concerned about promoting the reconciliation plan and broadening its ideas. However, with unprecedented rudeness, he has violated the Arab League's bylaws which define the tasks of the secretary general as being a "secretary general of the Arab League Council" which consists of the Arab foreign ministers.

The paper adds: Based on these bylaws, the Arab League secretary general does not have the right to express his opinion about any difference between any two Arab countries unless the details of this difference are submitted to an Arab League ministerial meeting, and unless he gets approval for what he will say from the conferees.

The paper notes: Former Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi provided an example by resigning from his post when he was accused of being biased toward one Arab party against the other. He did not violate the Arab League bylaws whose sanctity is being violated by 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as part of the process of Egyptizing the Arab League in order to be in harmony with the Husni Mubarak regime's policies and disgraceful stands.

Concluding its article, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: All that 'Ismat has said is not worthy of a reply, a comment, or even the frankness he has long been bragging about, for the shortage of horses has prompted the Kuwaiti rulers to resort to... to give vent to their grudges against the Iraqi people.

The Arabs said in the past: "He who puts himself in suspicious positions should blame himself only."

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Kozyrev on Syrian Reluctance To Reach Agreement

TA0404175495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad believes that Rabin will lose the next elections and is therefore concerned about reaching an agreement with him, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev reported to Jerusalem today, following his talks in Damascus.

The Syrians are calling the proposals to advance the negotiations presented by Itamar Rabinovich ridiculous and have expressed pessimism about the chances for Dennis Ross' mission to the region to succeed.

Rabin on Problem of Hatred, Suspicion in Talks

TA0404161395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today addressed the Conference of the Inter-American Bank in Jerusalem, attended by 50 central bank governors, mainly from South America. The prime minister explained the reasons for promoting economic development in Latin America [as heard]:

[Begin Rabin recording] Unless the international economic community will not be part of it, I am afraid that we'll not achieve in the Middle East—might be in other parts of the world—what can be achieved to bring hope, life, progress to many countries, to many peoples on earth. We all should try to bring together the prophecies of the prophets and the capability of the business community to create new realities in the world. [end recording]

Rabin also gave the raison d'etre of Israel's present peace policies:

[Begin Rabin recording] We decided to give the peace a chance, to take calculated risks for peace. In the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, peace has to be done with enemies, and sometimes with bitter enemies. There is no need to make peace with friends, and there can be no peace without making compromises on both sides. Real peace can be achieved by compromises on both sides. Each side has to understand what are the vital interests of the other side. And we dare to tackle the longer part of the Arab-Israeli conflict—the most loaded with prejudices, hatred; all along it a lot of bloodshed on both sides—the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. To overcome the high and the thick walls of suspicion and hatred is much more complicated than to solve the practical elements that are needed to reach peace. [end recording]

Weizman Opposes Rabin Distinction Between Settlements

TA0404160095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman said that no distinction should be drawn between the Golan Heights settlements and the confrontation line settlements and that as long as a political decision has not been made on the issue, all the needs of the settlements beyond the Green Line should be met.

[Begin Weizman recording] My job is not to support what the prime minister said. I do not concern myself with that. I think that all the budgets should be allocated and that all residents beyond the Green Line should be considered children of Israel. As long as there is no political decision, we have to worry about them and safeguard them. [end recording]

The president does not accept the distinction the prime minister drew between Golan Heights and Galilee settlements two days ago. President Weizman made these remarks during a visit to Nahariyya after meeting with leaders of confrontation line settlements who decided on a one-day warning strike next week.

Rabin-Kohl Meeting on 'Security Cooperation' Reported

TA0504091295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Much of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's 3 and 1/2-hour meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn last week dealt with "several ideas and plans to expand security cooperation between the two countries" in the future, a senior Israeli official said yesterday.

According to reports, REFA'EL, the Israel Armament Development Authority, is a finalist in the bidding to obtain a contract from the German Defense Ministry, to provide Bonn with laser-guided bombs. This may have been one of the issues raised by Rabin during the meeting.

Until now, it was assumed that the meeting was dedicated to a personal reconciliation in the aftermath of German press disclosures relating to the whereabouts of missing navigator Ron Arad.

German officials have also privately called for establishing more contact between German bureaucrats and Israeli officials, so Bonn can get a better understanding of which technologies Israel believes should not be sold to Iran.

Rabin's spokesman, 'Oded Ben-'Ami, refused any comment on the issues. [passage omitted]

According to the Israeli official, Germany so far has no hard evidence that Iran knows Arad's whereabouts. Bonn believes that if Iran knew where Arad was, Tehran would hold out on releasing him in order to extract a quid pro quo from Germany. So far, this has not occurred.

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Kohl and Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani have had at least two phone conversations in the last few months during which the issue of Arad was raised, according to the official. During the first conversation, Rafsanjani denied that Iran was holding Arad.

During the second conversation, Kohl asked the Iranian leader if he could check whether any of Iran's friends—alluding to Hizballah or Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the al-Biqa' Valley—might be holding Arad. Rafsanjani said he would check, but later sent word that Arad's whereabouts were unknown, the Israeli official said.

Apart from top-level contact, the German authorities have made clear that Israel has been kept abreast of intelligence and sub- ministerial contacts with Iran, which Bonn terms to be part of its "critical dialogue" with Tehran. [passage omitted]

UN Asked To Abolish Jordan Border Observer Force

TA0304170995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Apr 95 p A6

["Exclusive" report by New York correspondent Shlomo Shamir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York—The UN observer force deployed on the Israeli-Jordanian border is expected to be gradually reduced until it is fully disbanded, sources at the Israeli legation to the United Nations have announced.

The UNTSO [UN Truce Supervision Organization] observer force has been stationed on the border since the cease-fire agreements were signed in 1949. It was agreed on in the Israeli-Jordanian talks on normalization in the wake of the peace treaty that the two countries would act jointly to bring about the dissolution of the UNTSO observer force, which is now seen as redundant.

Israeli Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi sent a message to the UN secretary general last week, requesting that the United Nations pass a decision disbanding the force. Ya'aqobi wrote that since the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement has ended the state of war between the two countries, "the observer force seems to be no longer necessary. Israel is therefore requesting that the UNTSO missions be canceled at once and its offices closed."

In talks between the Israeli and Jordanian ambassadors, the Jordanian side suggested that the disbandment occur gradually. The Jordanian ambassador conveyed his proposal to the UN secretary general.

Following the Israeli appeal to the secretary general, the United Nations will reevaluate the observer force with a view to reducing its size and activity volume. [passage omitted]

Accord on Hizballah Expulsion Urged With Lebanon

TA0404114295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 4 Apr 95 p 5

[Commentary by Jacques Neriya]

[FBIS Translated Text] The theory that the Lebanese branch of Hizballah enjoys Syrian political, military, and economic backing has become prevalent in Israel in recent years: Hizballah will shoot if Syria so desires, and it will hold fire should Syria tell it to do so. As a result, Israel has approached Syria through the United States following each katyusha volley, requesting that the defiant child be restrained. On the other hand, contrary to any logic, when punishment is called for, Hizballah is on the receiving end.

Contrary to conventional Israeli wisdom, Hizballah is a Lebanese product, rather than the brainchild of either Iran or Syria. It first emerged in Lebanon in 1982 as a derivative of the Shiite protest movement. With time, it came to represent the lost honor of Lebanon. Lebanon's humiliation and frustration at its subordination to Syria, at the occupation of a part of southern Lebanon by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and at the tacit Israeli-Syrian agreement regarding Lebanon is the factor behind the entire Lebanese society's—both Christian and Muslim—and the official establishment's full solidarity with the struggle of Hizballah.

Israel, from its prime minister down to the last citizen—repeatedly states that "for all practical purposes, Lebanon is a Syrian protectorate." By its declarations and its agreements with Syria on Lebanon's future, it has been dealing a blow to what is left of Lebanese pride, thereby abetting the deletion of Lebanon from the political map of the Middle East: In 1976, it was a "red line" that outlined the Syrian deployment in Lebanon; in 1982, the tacit agreement to avoid attacking the Syrians (it will be remembered that the Syrians were taken by surprise by the Israeli attack on their troops); in 1990—the Israeli silence concerning Michel 'Awn's banishment from Lebanon by the Syrian troops; and later there were the understandings achieved in the wake of Operation Accountability.

Syria is playing Israel's game. Actually, why not? Israel has freely granted legitimacy to the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Yet unlike Israel, the Syrians understand that they cannot prevent the Hizballah activities both because by attempting to do so, they would be liable to jeopardize their relationship with Iran, and also because any attempt "to curb, uproot, and eradicate" the organization will rouse the entire Lebanese establishment against them, undermining their influence and very presence in Lebanon.

Therefore, the Government of Israel will do well to revise its approach—at least on the declarative level—to the Lebanese issue, in a bid to help preserve Lebanon as an independent entity. It is crucial that we understand that Syria is not omnipotent in Lebanon, that it operates within a limited space and only as long as it conforms with its overall policy on Israel.

As soon as we understand it, we will be able to start devising solutions: The Hizballah's true address is Beirut—or rather, the B'abda Presidential Palace—and

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the struggle against Hizballah over control in southern Lebanon is a struggle against Lebanon itself. The Israeli theory saying that peace with Syria means automatic peace with Lebanon requires further proof. Syria will be able to help maintain security arrangements in Lebanon only on the condition that Israel fully evacuate the sovereign territory of Lebanon.

The sooner we rid ourselves of the constraints we have imposed upon ourselves, understand that we must restore the lost honor of Lebanon, and unravel the ties we have woven between Syria and Lebanon, the better off we will be. All the initiatives for a dialogue with Lebanon to date have been based on preconditions posed by Israel—most notably that Hizballah should discontinue its activities for various specified periods of time before Israel would consent to negotiate the implementation of UN Resolution 542 within the framework of a peace treaty. These preconditions are impractical for Lebanon today. A reminder: We have already made agreements with neighboring countries while cannons were still roaring. If muses were not silent then, why are they today?

Groups Behind Right-Wing Street Rallies Viewed

TA0404143095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 95 p B2

[Article by Nadav Shragay: "The Major Right-Wing Demonstration Organizers"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Only last week, Yitzhaq Rabin hurled the following accusation at Binyamin Netanyahu: "The Likud is collaborating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]." In the days since this statement was made, the prime minister's associates raked their memory to come up with a collection of harsh statements, posters, and pictures that the right wing presented in the demonstrations it staged last year after almost every terror attack, starting with "Bloody government" and ending with a picture of the prime minister donning a keffiyeh with the word "liar" written above it in giant letters.

Rabin pointed his finger at Netanyahu and the Likud almost automatically, but the copyright for most of the material belongs to the Terror Victims Command [TVC] and for some to ENDEAVOR (United Command for the Zionist Camp). The link between the two bodies is Me'ir Indor, a veteran activist of the old Gush Emunim and today a sworn adversary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. In fact, Indor and a group of friends—Yitzhaq Novik, No'am Arnon, Ya'aqov Steinberg, and others—are the major right-wing demonstration organizers today. ENDEAVOR was founded by Yehuda Hazani, who Professor Ehud Sprinzak once called "one of the greatest activists in the history of Gush Emunim." Hazani was killed in a traffic accident two years ago, leaving behind a vacuum in organizing the right-wing street protests. To a large extent, Novik and Indor are his followers and replacement.

The ideological gap between the settlement council and Indor and his friends is negligible. They have common goals: to overthrow the government; stop the process of withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; and build an education infrastructure that will "put the state back on the Jewish-Zionist track." They disagree only about the way to attain these goals.

Aside from dealing with the daily needs of some 140 communities, the settlement council also focuses on propaganda, not street struggle. It deals with gimmicks that do not require much manpower, and their impact depends on the way the media treats them. For example, it organized the planes that returned the so-called "Palestinian refugees" to 'Atarot Airport in Jerusalem [in which Jews dressed as Arabs staged a performance to illustrate the return of Palestinian refugees] and the posters placed along the "safe passages" [reading "Safe passage for terror" and other warnings].

"The time for gimmicks and public relations stunts is over," says Indor, who has a rich record of gimmicks. "No cultural or political revolution has ever taken place through the regular media. Everyone is preoccupied with how they look and sound on the news, and we, too, have fallen into this trap. A large part of the public is an obsessive media consumer, but there are many who hardly pay attention to it." Today, Indor prefers direct street communication, without the mediation of correspondents. Over the past several months, his headquarters has distributed thousands of copies of EXPOSURE [HASIFA], a series of newsletters describing daily events through different eyes.

In the leaflets, the Israel Police or the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are no longer sacred. A growing number of religious Zionists question the halakic edict that "the rule of the state we live in is the law by which we abide" and reject the concept that the State of Israel is sacred because it is the first step in the process of redemption. This feeling is prevalent more among the ENDEAVOR activists than among the members of the settlement council. There is no contempt for the state, but they have harsh things to say about its institutions and the processes it is going through under the current government.

Some of the expressions the members of ENDEAVOR and the TVC use regarding the government and its branches sound like they were uttered by foreigners. The Likud and the settlement council are very careful to show their respect for the IDF and the police and, even after physical confrontations, they stress that the IDF and/or the police must be kept out of the political debate. This dividing line is real but also tactical. The moderate rightists believe that their standing in the public eye will improve if they appear as part of the consensus. The main lesson they learned from the 1992 elections is that "we failed to find a place in the hearts of thousands," as Rabbi Yo'el Bin-Nun from 'Ofra put it. He is the man responsible for the tactics the settlement council uses in its struggle and, to a large extent, those of Binyamin Netanyahu.

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On the other hand, the TVC members believe that the time for tactical moves is over, because the situation is very grave and the government has crossed too many red lines. While the settlement council directs its propaganda at those segments of the population that are undecided and vacillates between backing the government's Oslo process and opposing it, the ENDEAVOR and TVC's propaganda is aimed at those who are convinced. Their aim is to consolidate the right wing, provoke it, and get it into the streets to fight.

Indor's command does not hesitate to accuse the army and the police of politicization. The command's leaflets refer to the state prosecution and the police in terms that recall the Russian KGB.

His people organize action committees made up of reserves soldiers who operate within their units during military service to prevent political interference and disseminate information material to the standing army "so that the soldiers will be able to deal with political lectures and declarations in the IDF on controversial issues." One of the pamphlets, entitled "Political Classification at the Recruiting Center," says the police spokesman approved handing over to the recruitment center lists of people who participated in right-wing demonstrations. This pamphlet gives the names of young people questioned at the recruitment center about their participation in demonstrations. Other publications accuse public figures, such as Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq; General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command; and Jerusalem Police Commander Arye 'Amit of having left-wing political leanings.

These leaflets, which so angered Yitzhaq Rabin, are the most popular at right-wing demonstrations. The settlement council and the Likud do not have real control over the contents of the street placards, which are handed to the demonstrators by ENDEAVOR activists or the TVC. This lack of control is primarily due to the fact that, in many cases, the organizational force behind the demonstration is ENDEAVOR, although the media places the responsibility with the settlement council or the joint command, to which the Likud also belongs. [passage omitted]

Those behind the texts treat the media with about as much trust as they have in the government and, recently, also the IDF and the police. "It is a struggle for the whole pot," Indor said, "and it cannot be handled through regular channels. The way the struggle is being handled by the settlement council or the way it is not being handled by the Likud depends largely on the media's cooperation. The cross-section of people who make up the media is usually one-dimensional. They usually identify with the government's aims and measures. They report moderate and restrained messages that come from the settlement council. They have a problem reporting the sharp, straightforward messages that come from bodies like the TVC or ENDEAVOR."

At the funerals of Nahum Hos and Yehuda Partosh, a leaflet published by Indor and his cohorts was disseminated among the mourners. "Will we be able to say that we did not spill this blood?" it asked. "We threatened to shoot Palestinian policemen if they come to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; in the meantime, they are shooting at us. We threatened to take over every site evacuated by the IDF; in the meantime, the murderous squads are taking over the IDF positions and they strike at the weak, as the Amalek used to do! We threatened that the moment SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] quits, the government will become a minority Jewish (plus Arab) government and will be declared unlawful; yet SHAS left and nothing....

"The season of threats, gimmicks, and public relations has passed," it said. "If you want to live and are interested in the continued existence of the state as a Jewish entity, do not return home to listen to the news. Go to the hunger strikers' encampment, go to demonstrate opposite Rabin's home, but not out of a desire to get several minutes of airtime. Forget the race for Rabin's last bastion at the media center at Malkhey Yisra'el Street. Take to the streets. Do not return home. Go to work or put the children to bed, then devote each moment to the struggle. Think of those buried under the ground or those who have been seriously wounded and would be very willing to change places with each of us.... God Almighty gave us life and we will sanctify them day and night to save our people and our country and the spirit of our bible."

Army Reform in Wake of Social Changes Urged

TA0404123195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 95 p B1

[Commentary by Aluf Ben: "Rebuild the IDF"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] main challenge in 1995 is not the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] suicide terrorists or the Iranian nuclear threat. Rather, it is the army's identity crisis vis-a-vis Israeli society. Most of the difficulties the IDF is encountering these days and a major part of the public criticism leveled at it stem from the military system's inability to adjust to the loss of its central position in society.

Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the General Staff's Planning Branch, said in a public lecture that decisions on national security needs are affected by the evolvement of the army-versus-society relationship in Israel no less than they are by outside threats. Dayan emphasized two problems: the combat troops' sense of burden caused by heavy reserve duty and the growing emphasis on personal achievement rather than contribution to society among the young recruits.

A poll aired by the media last week revealed a declining motivation to serve in combat assignments, while Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq testified in the Knesset on his

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concern about the growing phenomenon of refusing to serve in the army. The army complains about parents' overinvolvement in their children's military activities. Cabinet ministers who visited IDF troops on the Lebanese border heard bitter complaints from local commanders regarding the lack of support at the home front. I do not want a salary raise, only a sense of mission, a brigadier general beseeched. Rabin's aides revealed that similar comments have been heard on each visit to the front line.

Yet while the front-line troops are overburdened, the home-front soldiers wallow in either hidden or overt unemployment, and their burden of work is lessening as the numbers of recruits grows annually—all this resulting in overstaffed commands and bases in central Israel. In an article in last week's HA'ARETZ supplement, soldiers stationed at a General Staff base described their own and their equally redundant comrades' pleasant life of idleness and the terrible squandering of manpower and equipment which, instead of contributing to state security, produce worthless labor for each other. This week's BAMAHANE runs the story of the latest IDF innovation: A special ceremonies and marches unit was established "as a result of the heavy work load of the ceremonial events generated by the peace process." Soldiers of the new unit, the weekly says, will march five times a month on average, spending their remaining time "in administrative and service functions in the Haqirya army compound."

The duration of compulsory service forces the army to keep numerous soldiers in unnecessary administration jobs, which help maintain the semblance of equality with the minority of combat soldiers. All men serve three years, but there is no resemblance between service in the security zone or the territories and that in Haqirya. The gap widens after the soldiers complete the standing service: The law forces the IDF to find some employment for every young recruit, but the reserve service has become selective owing to budget constraints. Last month, Yitzhaq Rabin had no qualms about releasing tens of thousands of immigrants from the reserves, although veteran combat troops are called up for many weeks every year.

The process of normalization that Israeli society has been undergoing in the wake of the reduced threat to its existence ought to include a gradual change in the perception of the army's function from the national melting pot to an organization aiming to safeguard the country's security. Some powerful elements oppose the transformation, preferring to use the IDF for promoting their social goals while exploiting the simplicity of the military decisionmaking process and its rich resources. One example of this was the women's organizations' successful struggle against the shortening of female soldiers' service terms: To preserve the semblance of equality with a bunch of female soldiers employed in quality positions, such as tank instructors, thousands of women will be unnecessarily employed in army offices.

The burden of routine security forces the IDF to deploy extensively in the territories and has for many years held up some vital reforms in the military. Even the planned reduction of the standing service period has been shelved for the time being. However, the reluctance to make decisions exacerbates the plight of the army, which can barely cope with the social changes occurring around it. It is time to rebuild the IDF so as to help it adjust to the Israeli reality of the end of the century. The reform should be composed of several elements:

—The standing service term should be cut significantly, in order to reduce the squandering and the damage to discipline caused by thousands of redundant soldiers. It is vital to retain the compulsory service in order to preserve the national-contribution values and to ensure a broad supply from which qualitative manpower, such as that which is required for flight school, can be sifted out.

—The career service structure should be revised and reorganized along two tracks: a short-term service of several years in combat and other crucial tasks, possibly in conjunction with academic education, and the possibility of a long service for those interested in a military career—for whom the retirement age would be extended.

—Combat troops in standing and reserve duty should be granted an exceptional economic and social remuneration.

—Routine security tasks should be relegated to vocational militias (the Border Police) and private firms (community security), mainly so as to ease the burden of reserve duty.

—The option of a civil national service should be instituted as a substitute for military service. The national service would be longer than military service and be appropriate for women and men with a low medical rating.

The proposed approach will not convert the IDF into a small and slick high technology force overnight. Yet it offers a chance for a healthy change in the army's standing and role in Israeli society, as well as a more efficient allocation of resources.

Ofeq-3 Satellite Launched 'Successfully'

TA0504143395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, the Ofeq-3 satellite, which weighs 225 kg, was successfully launched by the Shavit satellite launcher. Israel Aircraft Industries issued a statement saying that Ofeq-3 was designed for the study of technologies for scientific and commercial consumption. Foreign news agencies, however, maintain that it is a spy satellite.

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Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Meron Tzur report that the development of the satellite was based on proven technology from Ofeq-1, launched seven years ago, and Ofeq-2, launched two years ago. After Ofeq-2 was launched, the heads of the defense establishment said at the time that Israel has the capability to develop a military intelligence satellite. Several previous attempts to launch Ofeq-3 were aborted due to technical problems.

Today's launch was successful. The satellite went into orbit around the earth from east to west, with each revolution lasting 90 minutes. The various systems of the satellite were checked about an hour ago, and all were found to be working well.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, congratulated the defense industries and said that this is a technological achievement for the State of Israel.

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King Husayn, Delegation Arrive in New York

JN0404205295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 4 Apr 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty the King and Queen Nur arrived in New York this evening, continuing a visit to the United States which included talks with President Bill Clinton and top administration officials. Upon arrival at Kennedy Airport, their majesties were received by American and United Nations officials. Also at the airport were heads and members of the Arab missions to the United Nations, as well as members of Jordan's mission.

His majesty is accompanied on the visit by the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, his majesty's military secretary, Princess Ghayda' Talal, and the ministers of planning and trade and industry.

Tests Show King in 'Very Good Health'

JN0404214695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur arrived in New York this afternoon from Rochester where his majesty underwent a scheduled medical checkup at the Mayo Clinic. The results of the checkup were good and very satisfactory. His majesty is in very good health, thanks be to God. [passage omitted]

Official on Aims of Expected Cabinet Reshuffle

TA0404145695 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Munir 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—A senior Jordanian official is anticipating a reshuffle in al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's cabinet. Mr. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said to AL-MANAR that the Jordanian prime minister is expected to begin his contacts and consultations about the reshuffle during the next few days, after he returns to Jordan. It is worth noting that the prime minister, foreign minister, and a number of officials are accompanying King Husayn on an official visit to Canada. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din denied that Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir had held contacts on the reshuffle while accompanying King Husayn on his official visit to Washington.

The Jordanian official explained that the reshuffle seeks to achieve cabinet harmony, raise the standard of the government's performance, and realize concrete steps in inter-Arab relations. In addition, the reshuffle also aims at securing a breakthrough in internal relations between the government and the Jordanian parties, especially the opposition parties, and expanding general and press freedoms. Mr. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din stressed that the important thing in the reshuffle is the general policies rather than the personnel changes. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Rawabidah on Peace Process, Economy

JN0404162895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 4 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and acting prime minister, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—published jointly with the Beirut-based AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-ASWAQ] What is the latest in the peace process?

[Al-Rawabidah] The peace process is proceeding as planned. There is no delay, and no acceleration in it.

[AL-ASWAQ] This would apply to the Jordanian track, but what about the Syrian track?

[Al-Rawabidah] Regarding the Syrian track, I believe you should address this question to the Syrian brothers. However, we should stress that we support them here in Jordan to attain their full rights. We hope that this track will move in accordance with the international legitimacy and UN resolutions. We will support them until they restore their rights.

[AL-ASWAQ] What about the Lebanese track?

[Al-Rawabidah] We adopt the same stand toward the Lebanese rights so that peace will be comprehensive and durable.

[AL-ASWAQ] Jordan has recently received the U.S. vice president and the British prime minister. There has been little information about your talks with them. What are the most important issues you have agreed on?

[Al-Rawabidah] On the high political level, we discuss general issues, and we leave what we agree on to technical experts to translate into executive measures. However, we did feel that there is agreement on Jordan's development and economic needs, and support for Jordan's demands. These meetings gave us the chance to express support for our brothers on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks.

[Al-ASWAQ] What about the economic aspect, on which Jordan is pinning great hopes.

[Al-Rawabidah] In these meetings, we explained Jordan's needs. The two parties voiced great understanding of these needs and expressed readiness to engage in a partnership. As I have said, we will leave technical matters to the experts. We, however, expect the results of these visit to materialize this year.

[AL-ASWAQ] Do you expect direct aid for example?

[Al-Rawabidah] States no longer provide direct aid and grants to support the treasury of any state in the world.

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We started talking about partnership, about supporting cooperation with the private sector, and about encouraging the international parties to invest, particularly in projects with a regional dimension. Such investment will produce job opportunities and an economic yield, which will improve the economic conditions and restore balance between resources and needs. [passage omitted]

[AL-ASWAQ] Will the recent decision to severe links between members of the Jordanian Bar Association and their colleagues in the West Bank also apply to the other Jordanian professional associations?

[Al-Rawabidah] The Government's decision concerning the Bar Association was not an individual move. The right to political action and to represent people in Jordan applies only to the Jordanian citizen. By taking such a position, we proceed from our faith in Arab unity first, and from our strong belief that unity between Jordan and Palestine is the fate of the two peoples to the East and West of the River Jordan.

Any attempt to infiltrate the Jordanian society, under any pretext or banner, runs counter to the unionist trend. Inciting sensitivities, not only among governments but also among people, is an anti-unionist trend. Naturally, in a unity each party must know its rights and duties. This will help establish a balanced unity, in which each party knows its position and rights. Also, each party will know that it has not been done an injustice and that there are no attempts at imposing tutelage.

[AL-ASWAQ] Does this trend—the decision—apply also to the political parties?

[Al-Rawabidah] I can say that not a single non-Jordanian party was given a license in Jordan. If we have some criticisms about certain parties, in terms of membership or political conduct, then the judiciary is the authority that can rule on that. We, as government and people, must stop directing accusations and move to the stage in which we refer cases to the judiciary to rule on them.

We in Jordan differentiate between establishing political ties between parties in various countries on the one hand, and hegemony and receiving orders and instructions on the other. [passage omitted]

Liaison With Israel Replaces UN Truce Force

JN0404124895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization [UNTSO], the link between the Jordanian and Israeli sides, has recently ended operations following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty. UNTSO is no longer needed to coordinate between the two sides after the initiation of direct contacts.

Ranking sources said a new committee called the Military Liaison Office is now performing the UNTSO's duties in terms of coordinating the delegations' work, facilitating their crossing, and fixing the venue of their meetings as necessary in order to coordinate and facilitate the delegations' arrival in Jordan from Israel.

UNTSO's current work is confined to facilitating the crossing and movement of UN personnel between Jordan and Israel, in addition to other related issues. It no longer has any direct contact with the Jordanian side. However, UNTSO's office in Amman will remain open because the United Nations needs it for the joint armistice commission.

Israeli Embassy Staff Reduces Movements

JN0404154995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the Israeli Embassy staff in Jordan have reduced movements to the minimum after a French diplomat, mistaken for an Israeli tourist, was attacked in Wadi al-Mawjib.

While security measures around the Israeli Embassy in the Forte Grand Hotel have been tightened, the hotel's telephone exchange received several phone calls heaping abuse on and threatening the embassy staff, who rarely answer these calls.

Eyewitnesses in the Housing Bank compound near the embassy have noticed that the Charge d'Affaires Ya'aqov Rosen has not been seen in the compound or its shops since the Wadi al-Mawjib incident.

Before that incident, of which the Islamists were accused, Rosen and his embassy staff moved freely inside the Forte Grand Hotel and the Housing Bank compound, and even in some nearby streets.

Private Cars To Start Crossing Israeli Border

JN0504094195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Apr 95 pp 1, 29

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned from informed sources that travelers will be able to use their private cars and buses to cross the Jordan-Israel border posts as of the middle of next month. The sources added that a committee is currently designing the private license plates that will replace the original ones throughout the visit to the other country.

It will be recalled that according to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, a bilateral transportation agreement should be signed by 10 May.

'Text' of Tourism Agreement With Israel

JN0504085395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 95, p 3

["Text" of the "Agreement on Tourism between The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel"; date not given]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the government of the state of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the parties"); pursuant to and in the spirit of the Treaty of Peace signed between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the state of Israel on 26 October, 1994, (hereinafter referred to as "the Treaty of Peace)," particularly Article 17 therein:

Desirous to broaden further the friendly relations between their countries on the basis of equality, and for their mutual benefit, and recognizing the importance of tourism, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The parties shall, within the framework of their laws, regulations and prerogatives, adopt adequate measures to promote and encourage the development of tourism between the two countries and to intensify the cooperation between their tourism organisations, in both the public and private sectors, including their air carriers.

Article 2

The parties shall examine possible ways of facilitating and of promoting the tourist movement, within the framework of the laws and regulations in each of the two countries.

Article 3

The parties agree to facilitate the exchange of information on matters concerning tourism and travel in the two countries, including inter alia, planned tourism events.

Article 4

The parties agree to develop and strengthen technical cooperation in the field of tourist professional training expertise.

Article 5

The parties shall encourage tourism from third countries (tourism generating markets). With this in mind, both parties shall give special attention to cooperation in the field of marketing and promotional activities, especially efforts to bring about the extended stay of tourists, in order to ensure that both parties shall benefit from this traffic.

Article 6

The parties shall make efforts, as appropriate, to further develop their cooperation in international and regional bodies in the field of tourism, and shall exchange information concerning their achievements in this field.

Article 7

A joint commission shall be set up and assigned with the task of studying, agreeing on and following up on measures capable of contributing to the attainment of the above objectives.

Article 8

The joint commission shall consist of two representatives designated by the Ministry of Tourism of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and of two representatives designated by the Ministry of Tourism of the state of Israel, thus constituting national delegations (hereinafter referred to as "national delegations"). Each national delegation may be accompanied by their experts, as necessary.

Recognising that governments primarily serve as catalysts for travel and tourism, while private organisations are primarily the providers of goods and services to travellers and tourists, both parties agree to include private sector representatives from the two countries in all the working groups and committees stemming from this agreement.

Article 9

The joint commission shall meet once a year. The joint commission may hold extraordinary meetings if it is deemed necessary, and with the agreement of the head of the national delegations.

The joint commission shall meet alternately in each of the two countries on a date to be mutually agreed upon by the heads of the national delegations.

The head of the national delegation of the host country shall preside [at] the meeting.

The national delegation acting as host, shall be responsible for the work and expenses of the meeting's secretariat.

Article 10

The working language of the joint commission shall be English.

Article 11

The joint commission shall draw up its programme of work and the priority order of the topics and problems to be dealt with, as well as any other matter which may be deemed necessary. The agenda for each meeting shall be jointly established by both heads of national delegations at least one month before such meeting.

Article 12

The decisions of the joint commission shall be submitted to the appropriate bodies of their respective government for approval. Upon approval, the decisions shall be implemented.

Article 13

Each party hereby designated its Ministry of Tourism as the agency with primary long term responsibility for implementing this agreement.

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Article 14

This agreement is subject to approval or ratification in accordance with the national legislation of each party and shall enter into force on the day following the exchange of notes confirming such approval or ratification.

Article 15

1. Disputes arising as to the implementation or interpretation of this agreement shall be resolved by negotiations.

2. If, after a period of six months from the date on which negotiations started, the dispute is still unresolved, Article 29-2 of the Treaty of Peace shall apply.

Article 16

The present agreement is concluded for a period of three (3) years and will be automatically renewed by tacit acquiescence for further periods of three (3) years, unless denounced in writing by one of the parties by an advance notice of three (3) months.

Done at Dayr 'Allah, this day the 4th of Thu al-Q'edah 1415, Hijri, the 4th of Nissan A 5755, which corresponds to the 4th of April, 1995; in the Arabic, Hebrew and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Fundamentalists Arrested for Targeting Tourists

MM0404150595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Amman Arrests 37 Islamists"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Authoritative Jordanian sources have announced that 37 people from Jordanian Islamic forces have been arrested on charges of planning to hit tourism in Jordan. The sources confirmed that they do not all belong to one organization. Their arrest came following the investigations involving the two gunmen who opened fire on the French diplomat who was accompanied by his wife in the tourist al—Muawjib area in southern Jordan.

The sources said that for the first time the arrested elements include people belonging to known families such as al-Majali, al-Kasasibah, Jaradat, and Khawalidah. Opposition political parties have expressed their indignation at the arrests, demanding the detainees' immediate release. [passage omitted]

Confiscation of Daily at Border Post Assailed

JN0504102495 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of the Jordanian Government's harassment policy against the opposition—parties, professional unions, cultural seminars, press, and individuals and the plan to stifle the free press, particularly the press which does not praise all our wise government's actions, the pertinent authorities at the Al-Ramtha border post Monday [3 April] confiscated all issues of AL-MAJD that were on their way for distribution abroad.

Observers say they were amazed by this government measure, particularly because the same issue of AL-MAJD was distributed in Amman and the other Jordanian governorates, not to mention that the task of the Press and Publications Department is to censor incoming, not outgoing, papers.

Seeking clarification as to why this measure was taken, the officials in charge at al-Ramtha border post told AL-MAJD: Ask Amman!

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Prime Minister Receives Algerian Minister

JN0204132295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Algerian Culture Minister Dr. Slimane Cheikh at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Culture Minister Dr. Najah al-'Attar and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

Cheikh conveyed to the prime minister a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual. Discussions during the meeting dealt with the Algerian cultural days in Damascus and relations between the fraternal countries.

Foreign Minister Speaks With Turkish Counterpart

JN0104181995 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a telephone call from Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu this evening. During the telephone conversation, the Turkish foreign minister explained his country's stand on suspicions surrounding Turkish military operations in northern Iraq. He stressed that this military operation is not aimed at encroaching on Iraq's territorial integrity and safety and that it is a local operation and limited in terms of objective and duration.

Minister Inonu expressed his understanding of Syria's concern over what is happening and its commitment to maintaining Iraqi territorial integrity and safety and ending the present operations.

Minister Meets French Defense Studies Team

JN0404182295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, today received Major General Engineer (Setin Bernard), director of the French National Railways Company, and the delegation of the French higher defense studies institution accompanying him.

After welcoming the guest delegation, the deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces briefed the delegation on the political situation in the region and current issues under discussion, especially the peace process and the firm position Syria adopts under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with the legitimate resolutions and land-for-peace principle.

Talas also stressed that Syria would not relinquish any of its rights or any inch of its national soil. He then responded to questions by the members of the guest delegation.

U.S., Russian Moves To Advance Peace Urged

JN0404150995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the Israelis are indeed eager, as they claim, to establish peace, why do they refuse to abide by UN resolutions, viewed by the international community as the basis for peace in the region? Why do they reject the most important principle on which the peace process was established, namely, the exchange of land for peace? Why do they insist on jumping to conclusions instead of doing their duty to achieve peace? Each day that passes without progress in the peace process means moving further away from the desired goals, and consequently, missing the available opportunity for establishing just and comprehensive peace that can surmount all future obstacles.

By making proposals irrelevant to the essence of peace and adhering to secondary matters and formalities, Israel not only hampers the peace process, but also exposes the entire process to upheavals. The aim is to establish peace, and the road leading to it is clear. The road lies in the UN resolutions and the land for peace principle. If Israel had indeed been serious, it would have chosen that road. Instead, it has wasted the past three and a half years in focusing on the results, rather than the factors, of peace.

He who wants peace will not insist on retaining the territories he has occupied by force, reject UN resolutions, commit daily aggressions against Lebanon, use the most advanced conventional and nonconventional weapons, and will not refuse to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Over the past two days, Israeli officials have talked about their desire for peace and their readiness to carry out an unlimited [ghayr mahdud] withdrawal from the Golan. This means that they, especially Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres, still refuse to withdraw from the entire Golan. Syria completely rejects this because it had gone to the Madrid conference to regain all its territories and its full rights and because it had opted for peace as a policy and strategy.

The issue of security arrangements on the Golan is ridiculous. If a peace accord is reached, such arrangements should take place on both sides of the border and not only on Syrian territory, as Israel wants. Only peace can guarantee security and stability in the region, and not some security arrangements that cannot endure in the face of the advanced war technology. If the Israelis had been honest in their desire for peace, they would not have talked and acted as if they were in a state of war. What the Israelis are doing shows that they want their own peace instead of just and comprehensive peace sought be Syria, whose position, views, and proposals are strongly backed by the international community.

Israel is mistaken if it believes it can draw Syria into a suspect, distorted, and partial deal like the ones it has

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reached with other Arab parties. This is because Syria is seeking true peace that cannot be shaken by storms. These deals have proved to be futile because they have not brought any peace to Israel or the region. Tours by U.S. and Russian officials, though essential, will fail to push the peace process forward as long as Israel sticks to its rejected positions which conflict with the bases of just peace. Therefore, we urge the American and Russian sponsors to deal with the other side that still avoids the bases of the peace process, before the available opportunity is missed forever.

Israeli Stand, 'Aggression' Against Lebanon Hit

JN0104104795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Only Way," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes about the Middle East peace process and Israel's attempts to obstruct every step toward rendering this process a success.

The paper says: Israel could care less about the success of the Washington talks. It has continued its maneuvering and refusal to abide by the bases and pillars of a just and comprehensive peace, particularly those related to the full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and other occupied Arab territories.

The paper adds: Israel has continued to do everything to disrupt and obstruct the Washington talks. The objective of Israel's rulers to obstruct the Washington talks, as everyone knows, is to prevent them from pushing the peace process toward its set objective; namely, a just and comprehensive peace, and to drag it into separate deals, similar to the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements which have nothing to do with peace, but were created to guarantee Israel's interests and ambitions in the occupied Arab territories and to contribute to imposing its hegemony over the region.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Moscow and Washington, the peace co-sponsors, should force Israel to abide by the most important bases of a just and comprehensive peace which are embodied by its full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all other occupied Arab territories. This is because the return of all these territories to their Arab owners is the way to this peace.

In its editorial, TISHRIN writes about the escalation Israel carried out against Lebanon yesterday. It stresses that these aggressive acts reveal the existence of serious Israeli schemes, intentions, and rancor which target Arabs, their existence, and destiny; seek to confuse the internal situation in Lebanon, undermine its march of security, peace, and national accord, and threaten Lebanese national unity.

TISHRIN adds: This is because Lebanon, with all its groups, sectors, and institutions, stands united to support the national resistance by all means.

The paper stresses that the resistance will continue its policy and activities as long as Israel still occupies the south, especially since this is the true and natural reply to this occupation. Israel will not succeed in reinforcing its forces with more tanks and troops to expand its occupation.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Lebanon stressed that there is no alternative to the implementation of Resolution No. 425 and Israel's withdrawal from the south no matter for how long Israel procrastinates. Occupation will inevitably end, and the Lebanese people have the right to resort to any method they deem appropriate to liberate their territories from the occupiers and agents.

Israel's 'Daily Aggressions' Against Lebanon Viewed

JN0404075295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN writes about Israel's daily aggressions against southern Lebanon. It says: The escalation of Israel's aggression necessarily leads to the escalation of resistance operations against the occupation and its men.

The paper adds: The mercenary gangs created by Israel in southern Lebanon have lost the ability to do their job as a shield for the occupation. Their morale has collapsed and they have become a financial, military, and moral burden to Israel itself. These gangs have worsened the Israeli Government's ordeal in Lebanon.

The paper says: Israel's attempts to rehabilitate the collapsing so-called agent Lahd army in southern Lebanon will fail. The fact produced by the south Lebanese events is that aggression, bombardment, shelling, and blockade do not provide security to the Israelis, particularly the inhabitants of settlements in the northern region.

The paper stresses that geographical locations and military supremacy are not bringing security and stability to Israel. It is impossible to guarantee its security at the expense of the security, stability, and rights of others, especially since security will only last if it is based on the pillars of justice ['adl], equality [musawah], and equitability [takafu'].

TISHRIN adds: The fact is—and this is confirmed by developments in the south—that it is impossible to separate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks regardless of Israel's efforts to pressure Lebanon, to blackmail it, and to force it to move away from Syria as a prelude to singling it out and imposing capitulation on it.

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The paper affirms that Israel has failed and will fail to achieve any breakthrough in this regard, and that the escalation of military pressures against Lebanon has strengthened unity between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and exposed to the Lebanese citizens the true nature of the Israeli ambitions.

In its commentary, the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes on the continuation of the aggressive Israeli conduct which is based on killing and destruction of Arab citizens and their property.

The paper says: Israel and its supporters have denied others the right of self-defense, but it has given itself the right to impose blockade even on the coasts of open seas, thus defying the international community.

The paper expresses astonishment at the international stand and silence over Israel's continued encroachments and aggressions. The paper says: We see that the international community stresses the need to take the rights of peoples and nations into consideration, as if this consideration does not apply to the Arabs to allow them to enjoy support for their rights and causes. The paper holds those who supported Israel and enabled it to possess nuclear weapons responsible for continued Israeli aggressions.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The daily shelling of Lebanon, the blockade of its coasts, the ways of delusion and forgery, and Israel's settlement policy will keep the situation in the region volatile and unstable.

Full Withdrawal 'Key' to Just, Comprehensive Peace

JN0104154295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 1 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Although three and a half years have passed since the start of the peace process, facts confirm that Israel has yet to make a final decision to work seriously to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Unlike Syria—which, through contacts, consultations, meetings, and talks, has stressed that it truly aspires to achieve a just and comprehensive peace—Israel has spared no effort to enhance its endeavours to conclude partial solutions that are not just and comprehensive and that are unable to face the facts of the conflict, the requirements of peace, and developments. Unlike Syria, Israel has resorted to all kinds of procrastination and time wasting. It continues to gamble mistakenly on the possibility of submitting Syria to the policy of blackmail, pressure, and intimidation. For this purpose, Israel has set up traps, planted mines, and done all it could to avoid the bases and principles of the peace process. It does not hide its policy aimed at achieving peace while continuing the occupation under various pretexts, all of which revolve around the issue of security.

When Israeli officials talk about the territories and security arrangements, they mean only Israel's security, with its conditions to keep all the occupied territories, or some of them, using this flimsy pretext. If Israel complies with international legitimacy's resolutions, and commits itself to the full withdrawal for full peace principle which restores for the Arabs their territories and rights and maintains their dignity, then everyone's security and interests will be realized, based on equality, parallelism, and equitability [al-tasawi wa al-tawazi wa al-takafu'] so that imbalance is redressed and the factors of hostility eliminated.

A just and comprehensive peace will continue to be the only peace that guarantees security and stability in the region. There can be no security with the continuation of the occupation and there can be no stability by going around the Arab people's rights. The partial agreements that violate the peace process and deviate from its desired objectives, are, perhaps, a vivid example of this. However, these agreements do not convince the people and hence, they do not achieve stability and cannot produce security.

Israel, before anyone else, realizes that security based on occupying the territories is no longer an issue in the age of missiles and advanced military technology. Hence, security can only be established through reciprocal [mutabadalah] commitments toward entrenching security arrangements that do not encroach on anyone's sovereignty and do not give something to one party at the expense of the other. This should be based on the principle of equitability, equality, and parallelism [al-takafu' wa al-tasawi wa al-tawazi] in a way that reflects the principles of justice, respect, and absence of any attempt to harm dignity and national sovereignty.

Israeli officials, who have not stopped their blackmail, are trying to discuss the issue of security arrangements as a means of obstruction. They do not realize the importance of equality, equitability, and parallelism [al-musawah wa al-takafu' wa al- tawazi]. When Israeli officials show true intentions toward a just and comprehensive peace and make a strategic decision—like Syria did—then they will hasten to announce their commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and accept security arrangements that achieve equality and parallelism [al- tasawi wa al-tawazi].

However, shedding crocodile tears over wasted time and creating an atmosphere of unjustified optimism will only increase the suspicion about Israel's stands that has existed since it reluctantly agreed to take part in the peace conference in order to avoid international public opinion from holding it responsible for obstructing the peace process. Full withdrawal is unequivocal withdrawal which accepts no explanation or interpretation under any pretext. Israel's recognition of the principle of a full withdrawal will remain the key to a just and comprehensive peace that ends the occupation, returns the territories and rights to their owners, maintains the

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Arabs' dignity, secures the dignities and interests of all, and is the basis for entrenched stability in the region.

Paper Reiterates Stance on Security Arrangements

JN0204071095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In one of its commentaries, AL-THAWRAH discusses Israel's methods of obstructing any progress in the peace process. Under the headline "The Peace of Justice [al-'adl] and the Security of Equitability [al-takafu']," the paper writes: Three and a half years after the beginning of the peace process, Israel has not displayed anything to proves its peaceful intentions. We find that the stands raised by the Israeli negotiator have not changed in content, though they have changed in form. After much procrastination and evasion of the bases and substantive requirements of peace and of adamantly rejecting the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, Israel has resorted to a new type of obstructive methods, using its old stand of rejecting the principle of full withdrawal. This time, security pretexts are being used to justify that policy which obstructs the progress of the peace process.

The paper says that Syria, which stresses that only a just, comprehensive peace can ensure regional security and stability, has for a long time been warning against the gravity of Israeli persistence in raising pretexts intended to waste time.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Peace must be just and comprehensive. Peace cannot be achieved without full withdrawal and ending the state of aggression posed by Israel through its practices and expansionist schemes. Security is mutual commitments [iltizamat mutabadalah] that cannot be in favor of one party at the expense of another. Security arrangements are a formula for applying the principles of justice, equitability, and equality [tasawi] to everything.

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Afghanistan

'Around 800' Troops Reportedly Killed by Taleban

LD0404132795 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov., April 4, IRNA—About 800 Afghan Government forces were killed and 300 others were captured by the Taleban militiamen in recent clashes in Farah Province, informed sources said here on Tuesday [4 April].

Herat governor Ismail Khan's deputy is among the dead, the sources claimed.

Taleban armed opposition group also seized large numbers of heavy weapons from the government forces, they added.

The Afghan sources claimed that the Government forces were losing their morale and most of them were looking for an opportunity to defect. The sources said that after the capture of Farah's capital by the Talebans, most of local officials have fled to the nearby mountains and some have been taken prisoners by the Talebans, they said.

Nimruz's officials have fled to Chaharborjak and the nearby areas following an agreement between Nimruz Province governor, Karim Barahoyi, and the Taleban. The sources said Taleban's militiamen are stationed in Nimruz Province.

Another source said that the Government forces in Farah Province have mainly been deployed in the areas of Anar Darreh and Shindand.

Since Afghan Government forces have been reinforced in Shindand, recently the Talebans have transferred large amount of ammunition to outskirts of Shindand, the source added. According to the source, the civilian population has fled the city of shindand and the area is patrolled by some 3,000 government troops, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Ismael Khan and forces dispatched from Herat.

Taleban Commander Dies of Wounds

LD0404153995 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mullah Burjan, general commander of the Telaban group in the south of Kabul, who suffered wounds in heavy fighting some time ago, has died. [passage omitted] The report adds that Mullah Burjan played an important role in the recent fighting in the south of Kabul and enjoyed military and political prominence in the Taleban. So far the Taleban group has not published any report in this respect.

According to unconfirmed reports he [words indistinct] in Quetta.

Government Acceptable to 'Majority of Groups' Urged

LD0404133095 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, April 4, IRNA—As long as a central government, acceptable to the majority of groups, does not come to power in Afghanistan, the current crisis would not be solved, said Afghan Prime Minister, Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar, who is also leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, said in Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan, Monday [3 April] that he would support any effort for establishment of peace and security in his country.

Presently Afghanistan has become a market for sale of weapons of domination seeking powers and this is a major obstacle on the way of stabilization of an Islamic system in Afghanistan, he stated.

Hekmatyar also rejected disarming of people and the Afghan groups before formation of a powerful and acceptable central government and said such a move would be a mistake.

The Afghanistan Islamic Revolution Coordination Council, in its latest meeting appointed leader of Afghanistan National Salvation Front, Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, as the head of the council replacing Hekmatyar. The Afghanistan Islamic Revolution Coordination Council is a coalition of groups opposing Rabbani.

Agriculture Minister Chairs Council Session

LD0304201895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Presided over by esteemed Minister of Agriculture Sayd Nurullah Emad, the high session of ministers was held today in the Golkhana Palace of the premiership. The press office of the premiership reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency at the beginning of the session the minister of agriculture furnished the cabinet with a detailed report on his visit to agricultural projects in Nangrahar. It was approved by the high session of ministers. The following resolution was issued in this respect. Ministers of planning, rural development and revival, mines and industries, water and electricity headed by the minister of agriculture will pay a visit to Nangrahar Province and closely observe agricultural [word indistinct] of Jalalabad and will draw a specific plan for their revival and reconstruction and present it to the high session of ministers. Ministers of agriculture and water and electricity are assigned to draw a complete plan to revive Nangrahar Province's agricultural [word indistinct] and implement it. [passage omitted]

The session approved the draft regulation of the currency commission of the premiership, which was put forward by the Ministry of Justice and sent it to Official Gazette to be published. [passage omitted]

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In connection with a proposal by the Ministry of Agriculture on the merging of the departments of kadastr [preceding word in Russian] survey, cartography and geological survey, it was decided that a commission with the Ministry of Planning as a convener, and the Ministries of Agriculture and Defense and the Departments of National Security, Geology and Cartography as members will study the matter and present a specific proposal to the premiership.

Iranian Delegation Arrives To Commemorate Mazari

LD3103173395 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—An Iranian delegation led by Presidential advisor Hojjat ol-Eslam Masih Mohajeri arrived in Mazar-e Sharif, northern Afghanistan for participation in a ceremony in tribute to the martyred leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] of Afghanistan Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari.

Hoj. Mohajeri visited the provincial council of the Wahdat Party and on behalf of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani offered condolences on the martyrdom of Hoj. Mazari.

In his address at the Soltaniya mosque, he said the plots of world arrogance and of the enemies of Afghans had not come to an end and only the unity between all sectors of the Afghan people would counter such plots.

The Iranian envoy said those who had killed Hoj. Mazari would have to get their due punishment which, he said, would be done only after the institution of an independent Islamic government in Afghanistan backed by national unity and sympathy.

Hoj. Mazari, a memorizer of the holy Qur'an and a key figure in the struggle against the Soviet occupation of the country, was taken prisoner and killed by the Taleban group at Chahar Asiab earlier this month.

He was the first mujahideen leader to have been killed in such a dastardly way.

Mazari's body was brought to his native city Mazar-e Sharif for burial.

India

Accord Signed With Russia To Combat Arms Smuggling

BK0504032195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Russia have signed an agreement to combat illegal migration and smuggling of weapons. The agreement also provides for extension of cooperation in combating poisonous and radioactive materials and illicit traffic of drugs across the state border. It envisages exchange of experience in training to specialists and in using technical equipment for guarding the state border.

Lobbying of U.S. Presidential Hopefuls Urged

BK0404055395 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 30 Mar 95 p 8

[Article by Aabha Dixit: "Rich Indian Expatriates Must Learn the Fine Art of Lobbying"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. presidential campaign for 1996 has already got under way for the Republican Party. California governor Pete Wilson is the latest entrant to announce his decision that he is exploring a candidacy in the nomination process of the Grand Old Party. Wilson joins Senators Robert Dole and Phil Gramm, former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander, and Conservative ideologue Pat Buchanan as the obvious front runners in the presidential primaries. While the Democratic Party has not seen any contenders emerge as yet against President Clinton, in the coming months there will be increasing pressure upon the incumbent to change the course of his presidency to ensure a Democratic Party victory in November 1996. Unlike the past, it is time New Delhi reaches out to the presidential contenders to understand their programmes and also to see that New Delhi's interests are properly projected in their foreign policy planks.

The American presidential process is an unique event, simply unparalleled in manner and intensity. The nomination process of both parties virtually becomes a mini-presidential election, with all candidates seeking to widen their base through exposition of their policies and preferences. What makes New Delhi count for more this time is the quiet but dramatic changes that have resulted in American perceptions about India in the last three years. When the last election was being fought in the United States, the post-Cold War was still in its embryonic stage, where New Delhi was perceived in narrow strategic terms, as a country which was the ally of the former Soviet Union and, at best, part of a region where the nuclear proliferation situation provided a severe challenge to United States non-proliferation policies. Today however, Americans have waken up to the fact that the reform process has brought India to the edge of both technological and industrial transformation and a huge market exists for Americans to invest and make money. The three visits by Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown have led to a broadbasing of the bilateral agenda, a fact that will not be lost on the presidential contenders who will be battling it out to promise the American people a more vibrant economy, which in turn will require bigger markets outside the United States.

Apart from the economic aspect of the bilateral relations between what are the world's largest and greatest democracies there are other issues on which India has tremendous sensitivities, which need to be correctly projected

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to the candidates. First, there is the issue of non-proliferation. Not many presidential hopefuls have as yet made known their foreign policy planks, but it is certain that this issue will figure prominently. The fate of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] would be decided soon and non- proliferation issues will have to adjust to the post-NPT Extension realities. Among the candidates, Senators Dole, Gramm and Richard Lugar, who have shown interest in entering the race, have well known approaches to the issue, which very divergent from the Clinton administration's strategy.

It will be useful to reach out to Lamar Alexander, a Washington outsider, and Pat Buchanan, who has already carved a niche in the far right of his party. Alexander, generally considered a moderate and consensus builder, will be expected to keep within the broad confines of the present strategy, but Buchanan offers a different prospect altogether. His extreme views on subjects ranging from Christian morality, anti-abortion, NAFTA, to perceived anti- Israelism, indicate he could eventually adopt a considerably different position on the non-proliferation issue.

Likewise, on the issue of human rights, the three senators have displayed no known anti-Indian proclivity on human rights. But the extreme right Conservative coalition that Buchanan represents includes known human rights bashers such as Jesse Helms and Dan Burton. Jammu and Kashmir could be mischievously projected as a reference point for human rights abuses, courtesy Burton Helms et al. Early contact with the fledging presidential committees would ensure that Indian interests would continue to retain important channels among the campaigns of candidates who will survive the battle of attrition in the coming months.

Making contact with the campaign staff of the presidential candidates is just one of the efforts that would be required of New Delhi. The other major effort will be to activate the political groups of expatriate Indians in the United States to lobby our concerns with these candidates, one of whom might be the president from 20 January 1997, and lead the country to the doorstep of the 21st century, which according to some demographers might see non-Whites outnumber Whites for the first time. In purely electoral terms, the clout that Asian and Hispanic communities will hold should increase tremendously, forcing candidates to be careful while making policy choices. At the same time, "the browning of America" could possibly see "white" reaction with calls to halt immigration, adversely affecting the interests of the expatriate Indians.

It is clearly a two-way street and New Delhi should work in tandem with such political pressure groups by Indians.

Lobbying in America is not considered a dirty word and seeing the manner in which Israel has managed to create for itself a powerful constituency within the political and financial sectors of the American society, there is no reason why India cannot do the same. The political profile of Indians has been increasing steadily, with many finding jobs in the Clinton administration. Others such as Neil Dhillon are known politicians and many more could be expected to find their way into the political mainstream, an invaluable resources base for New Delhi to tap. Similarly, within the financial sector, the numbers of Indians going up the ladder on Wall Street has been dramatic.

Barely a decade ago there was no Indian in the top hierarchy of major financial companies, but today there are at least 10 Indians perched very near the top of the corporate ladder. Presidential campaigns and Wall Street today have a far closer and symbolic relationship than they did in the past. With presidential campaigns becoming more expensive and the relative strength of any candidacy being determined by the cash war chest that the candidate is able to create, most candidates look to Wall Street for finance. It is here that Indians, like the powerful Jewish lobby, could generate some influence.

While many might think that making overtures to Republican candidates is indicating preference in the Presidential stakes between the two parties, that is strictly not the case. Indo-U.S. relations under Clinton have matured considerably and in the event of a re-election of the Democratic Party incumbent, these could be expected to grow even deeper. But in the last two decades, except for the Reagan years, re-election of a sitting President cannot be taken for granted.

Ford, Carter, and Bush lost their re-election bids. While Clinton's gift of political timing is considered better than most, there is no certainty that he would be re-elected. By starting out early from the blocks, New Delhi could at least ensure that its views are heard adequately among all Presidential hopefuls.

Editorial Views Export-Import Policy, Regional Trade

BK0304153695 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 95 p 16

[Editorial: "Boosting Exports"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Export-Import Policy of 1992-97 has been substantially amended to achieve the twin objectives of export led growth and promotion of intra-South Asian trade. Commerce Minister P. Chidambaram, who presented the amended policy in Parliament on Friday, noted with satisfaction that, going by the 1994-95 figures, India's exports were financing the imports to the extent of 90 per cent. The current fiscal year's projections are that imports at $32 billion and exports touching $30 billion would leave a trade gap of only $2 billion, less than even 10 per cent. The export growth would be at 15 per cent, over 17 per cent last year and 20 per cent the year before. This may appear reasonably satisfactory, but it should be noted that this level of growth has been recorded on a relatively low base. A total trade volume of $62 billion could be

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considered fairly satisfactory for an Asian tiger. But India has been designated an Asian elephant (together with China) and, by jumbo standards, the trade turnover leaves much to be desired. Mr Chidambaram thus has understandably paid some attention to evolving measures to boost the domestic manufacturing sector. The new policy allows zero-duty import of capital goods in specific cases and it also expands the export promotion capital goods (EPCG) scheme to enable merchant exporters and service providers to take benefit of the measure. In fact, going through the list of amendments announced, it is clear that the new Exim policy is in tune with the Central budget for 1995-96 which has lowered import tariffs across the board to bring India's tax regime in line with that of the world.

Simultaneously with India's globalisation of the economy, a special effort has been made to boost trade in South Asia in promotion of a regional trade bloc. The new policy authorises the Director General of Foreign Trade to frame schemes for facilitating trade with neighbouring countries. Concessional customs duties have been announced for 18 lines of tariff in respect of imports from Sri Lanka. This follows the understanding recently reached during President Chandrika Kumaratunga's visit to Delhi. The gesture to Sri Lanka should quicken the pace of negotiations to bring into effect SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement). With a two-pronged thrust to increase trade and substantial expansion of the OGL [open general license] list of imports (to include personal computers and floppies, among other goods), the economy is set to witness a substantial rise in both exports and imports. But much of Mr Chidambaram's dreams crucially depend on Dr Manmohan Singh's ability to keep inflation under check. The $20 billion exchange holding looks comfortable in today's context. If imports spiral and prices remain high, not only exports would suffer because of a high cost of production, the exchange reserves would be substantially eroded to impede a policy of free imports to spur larger exports.

'Mixed' Meaning of New Export-Import Policy Viewed

BK0304151895 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 3 Apr 95 p 8

[Editorial: "The Inevitable Mixed Bag"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The merits and demerits of the Government's programme of economic reforms may be the subject of endless debate, but what cannot be disputed is that the direction in which the policy is moving has been consistent over the period of almost four years for which the PV Narasimha Rao government has been in office. This is an aspect of Government policy that industry in particular finds extremely attractive. It has for long argued that while it is equipped to handle almost any policy regime, it cannot be expected to repeatedly adjust to the changing directions of economic policy. The predictability of the reforms programme is, therefore, a welcome change from the flip-flop that was characteristic of earlier regimes. This predictability has been very much a feature of the budgets presented by the Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the Government's export-import policy has also not been found wanting on this count. In both cases, the pace at which the reforms are carried forward may be respective to the political situation on the ground, but the direction is unwavering.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the modified export-import policy announced on Friday seeks to address three broad issues—giving the consumer a greater and thereby hopefully a better choice; giving domestic industry a chance of taking on the competition by making its imported inputs cheaper and more easily available; and, using various import concessions as incentives to boost exports. The opening of imports of "mass consumption" (the term does not seem to entirely accurate) goods is clearly aimed at the consumers, though there is room for doubt whether imports will be able to provide effective competition in some of the sectors that have been opened up. Nevertheless, even in such areas, the threat of competition from abroad should serve the purpose of pre-empting possible disproportionate increases in domestic prices in the future.

For the exporters, the expansion in the shopping list under the special import license scheme, the enlargement of the advance licenses scheme and the expansion in the export promotion capital goods scheme should all be welcome news and go some way towards neutralising the disadvantages caused by a rupee that has effectively appreciated over the last two years. For the domestic manufacturer, however, the modified export-import policy presents the inevitable mixed bag. This is because what is an input for one sector of industry is the final product for another. Thus, makers of consumer goods may be pleased about freer imports of components and parts, but the component manufacturers are unlikely to see things the same way. Similarly, the abolishing of customs duties on capital goods above a CIF (cost, insurance and freight) value of Rs [rupees] 20 crore may be good news for many domestic units, but how this would affect the indigenous capital goods industry is not clear. These are areas where the Government would have to watch the impact and move accordingly.

Commentary Sees Fundamental Political Change Ahead

BK0404135495 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 4 Apr 95 p 8

[Commentary by political editor Ajoy Bose: "Towards coalition politics, but will it work?]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the Bihar election results finally ringing down the curtain on the three successive rounds of State Assembly polls held across the country over the past one-and-a-half years, the stage is set for the next general election. In the light of the Assembly poll results and the position of the different parties in various

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states, it is now possible to make some broad assumptions about the emerging political scenario at the national level.

The decimation of the Congress in Bihar has provided final clinching proof that the party is no longer the predominant political force in the country. More than anything else, the Bihar results, coming as they do after the mierable showing of the Congress in the 1993 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, underline the total marginalisation of the party in the two largest states of the country. The fact that the Congress was unable to revive itself in Bihar despite the Janata Dal Government's incumbent disadvantage as well as the non-descript showing by the BJP, indicates the terminal decline of the party in the State.

This decay of the Congress in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is not an overnight development, but has been been a steady process over the past several years. It has little to do with individual leaders of the party at the Centre, but is indicative of a broader marginalisation of the Congress at the grassroots level and the warning signals have been flashing from the 1989 general election onwards. So much so, the party can no longer realistically consider itself as even a serious opposition force in the two states.

To compound the problems for the ruling party, it has also in the last few years lost its predominant position in the earlier safe bastions of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra which have so often in the past helped to swell the Congress benches in the Lok Sabha. Although unlike in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh the Congress may still be able in the future to bounce back in these three states, such a revival seems unlikely in the short period left for the general election.

In fact, electoral prospects for the ruling party in the seven largest states including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh—comprising around 350 out of the total 542 seats in the Lok Sabha—are grim. It is doubtful whether the Congress would be able to get much more than a mere 50 seats in these states.

Which means that even if the Congress managed to bag around half the Lok Sabha seats in the rest of the states, it would barely be in a position to get 150 seats in the next general election. This would not only bring the party down by a good 75 seats from its position in the 1991 polls, but also make it virtually impossible for Congress political managers to once again manoeuvre defections to attain a working majority like it enjoys at present. Indeed, the only way the party could remain in power at the Centre would be to either enter into a honest-to-god coalition with other political groups or be at their mercy on the floor of the House.

At the same time, present electoral trends clearly indicate that there is no other single party which has even a remote chance to get a majority on its own in the coming general election. The BJP comes nearest in providing a national alternative to the Congress, but it would need a blinding miracle for the party to get even close to getting half the 542 Lok Sabha seats. Judging from the BJP's performance in the past three rounds of State Assembly polls, the party would be extremely lucky to get the same number of 150 seats expected for the Congress.

With the Congress and BJP likely to share in almost equal proportion half of the total Lok Sabha seats, an entire range of regional parties would bag the remaining half. The Janata Dal in Bihar and Karnataka, the Samajwadi Party and the BSP in Uttar Pradesh, the Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, the Left parties in West Bengal, the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra will all in varying proportions comprise as much as half the benches of the Lok Sabha. Such an unprecedented balance of power at the Centre cannot but have enormous implications for the country.

More interestingly, this vast army of regional parties who will hold the key to power at the Centre after the general election, are mostly ruled by individual chieftains who are far more inclined to be swayed by political compulsions of their own territories rather than those of national politics. The two peasant chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the filmstar-turned-political boss of Andhra Pradesh, the "iron lady" of Tamil Nadu, the fire-breathing cartoonist in Maharashtra and even the capitalist commissar of West Bengal not only have different agendas from each other, but also are likely to separately drive hard bargains from whoever seeks to enlist their support to rule at the Centre.

For instance, both Rao loyalists and the Arjun Singh-led dissident group in the Congress would be making a major mistake if they continue to think in the framework of past political precedents. The Congress high command used to play fast and low with smaller vulnerable parties, which would have to eat humble pie if the party wanted to enter into full-fledged coalition politics. Similarly, Mr Singh, or any other ruling party dissident leader for that matter, would be gravely miscalculating if they think that the likes of the two Yadav leaders or Ms Jayalalitha are waiting for a messiah from the Congress to seize power in New Delhi.

As for the BJP, its particular brand of exclusivist politics has already made it difficult for the party to thrive on coalition politics. This has become evident even in its uneasy coalition in Maharashtra with the Shiv Sena despite the two parties sharing common ideological concerns. It would send a shudder down the spines of Mr L K Advani and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, as well as their patrons in the RSS, if the capture of power at the Centre for the BJP meant playing simultaneous ball with a whole bunch of regional supremos.

At the same time, the chances of a repeat of the Janata Party or Janata Dal-led National Front experiments also seem bleak at the moment. Imagine the sort of fireworks which would erupt if Messrs Mulayam Singh Yadav, Laloo Prasad Yadav, NT Rama Rao, Deve Gowda, Jyoti Basu, Bal Thackeray and Ms Jayalalitha have to decide

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together who would be the next Prime Minister. The convulsions within the Janata Party or the National Front would seem like a teddy bear's picnic compared to the chaos and confusion emerging out of so many clashing personalities and ideologies trying to rule collectively.

The country is, therefore, inevitably heading towards an uncharted political terrain where neither single party rule or past experiments with coalition politics may provide the answers. This uncertainty over the national scenario after the next general election goes beyond merely the fate of the Congress, the BJP and the National Front-Left Front combine. It would not be surprising if the present vagaries of parties and groups lead to change in the very political idiom of the country.

Iran

AFP Reports 'Major Unrest' in Tehran Suburb

Police Said To Kill 'at Least 10'

NC0404212195 Paris AFP in English 2024 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Akbarabad, Iran, April 4 (AFP)—Security forces shot dead at least 10 demonstrators and wounded dozens more in a riot over price rises in this working-class town just outside Tehran on Tuesday [4 April], witnesses said.

Anti-riot units of the Revolutionary Guards militia opened fire to disperse a crowd of several hundred demonstrators who were protesting against public transport price hikes caused by a doubling in fuel costs and water shortages.

Witnesses said between 10 and 50 people were killed, most of them by gunfire, while dozens of others were wounded.

But the victims were dispersed to hospitals across the region and the Iranian agency IRNA, in the first official confirmation of the riots, made no mention of casualties.

"Opportunists used the demands of the inhabitants of Akbarabad for drinking water to provoke trouble and damage public buildings and vehicles," the agency said.

"The forces of order arrived quickly on the scene and arrested some of these trouble-makers," it added.

Witnesses said security forces made dozens of arrests.

Akbarabad, home to workers too poor to live in the capital, has a population of around 8,000 and lies 30 kilometres (18 miles) southwest of Tehran.

It was the first major unrest to reach the outskirts of the capital since the 1979 Islamic revolution and observers in Tehran said it was a warning signal to the government.

Several public buildings, two petrol stations and a bank were set on fire and the town was later sealed off and patrolled by anti-riot units, an AFP correspondent reported.

Militiamen arrested groups of young people and turned them over to security forces, the correspondent said.

A car was seen, several hours after the clashes, taking three of the wounded to hospital in Tehran, and ambulances also headed towards the capital. Akbar Abad itself has no hospital.

The violence erupted early Tuesday as several hundred demonstrators armed with clubs and stones gathered in the centre of Akbarabad, inhabitants said.

The crowds disarmed police before the Revolutionary Guards intervened and opened fire, they said.

The clashes were the most serious in Iran since riots in the industrial city of Qavzin 150 kilometres (95 miles) west of Tehran last August left at least six dead, dozens injured and caused widespread damage.

Violence broke out there after a government proposal to create a new province with Qavzin as the capital was narrowly defeated in the Iranian parliament.

Inhabitants of Akbarabad said they were shocked by Tuesday's violence. "A revolution has just taken place in Akbarabad," a youth told AFP, while another described the riots as "a second Qavzin."

All insisted the transport price rises, introduced on the Iranian new year, were "the last straw" for the country's poor already hit by an economic crisis and runaway inflation set at 50 percent in the past three months by foreign experts.

"Daily life has become too difficult with the economic crisis, prices are always going up, it is difficult to find work. People here are poor, they can't go on," one resident said, asking not to be named.

"The riots in this poor and forgotten region have only just begun," another resident warned.

Akbarabad, a former village, is one of many workers towns that have sprung up south of Tehran as part of a rural exodus which has seen millions of Iranians flood towards the big cities in search of jobs.

Most of these workers towns composed of virtual shanties have been hit by soaring unemployment and crime rates, mainly linked to drug abuse among the discontented youth.

Opposition Group Calls For Revolt

NC0404205695 Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 4 (AFP)—The People's Mujahedeen, the main Iranian armed opposition group, urged Iranians to rise up to overthrow the government following price riots on Tuesday [4 April] near Tehran.

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Massud Rajavi, head of the Iraqi-based Mujahedeen, called on the "Iranian people to continue the riots, because the last stage in the overthrow of the mullahs' regime has already begun."

"The day of punishment is close and the Iranian National Liberation Army (linked to the Mujahedeen) will judge the regime in place in Iran for all its crimes" against the Iranian people, Rajavi said in a message broadcast over the radio.

He also called on the UN Security Council to impose an embargo against Iran.

Security forces shot dead at least 10 demonstrators and wounded dozens more in a riot over price rises in the working-class town of Akbarabad just outside Tehran on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Anti-riot units of the Revolutionary Guards militia opened fire to disperse a crowd of several hundred demonstrators who were protesting against public transport price increases caused by a doubling in fuel costs, the witnesses said.

It was the first major unrest to reach the outskirts of the capital since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Islamshahr Residents Protest Water Shortage

LD0404112295 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamshahr, Tehran, April 4, IRNA—A group of residents of a village near the township of Islamshahr, southwest of Tehran, Tuesday [4 April] hold a gathering in one of the main streets of the district in protest at the shortage of drinking water. The protestors called on local officials to find a solution to their problem. The protestors announced that in case an immediate solution was not found to their problem, they would block the main road leading to Islamshahr.

Meanwhile, an informed source at water and sewerage organization in Islamshahr said that at present measures are under way to bring fresh water from Akbarabad region to Islamshahr through a 600 mm pipleline. The plan would provide the required drinking water to the inhabitants of the area.

A furious demonstrator told IRNA that fresh water is being provided for the area, with a population of about 100,000, through tankers at a cost of 4,000 rials per liter. A 25-year-old man also claimed that a group of protestors smashed window panes of two banks near the area where the gathering was held. Residents of the same place staged a similar demonstration in protest against the shortage of water last month.

'Opportunists' Arrested by Police

LD0404191495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a Central News Unit report a number of residents of a village in Islamshahr, south-west of Tehran, in protest at transport and drinking water problems, congregated in one of the main streets of Islamshahr today. The demonstrators called on the local authorities to take steps to solve the transport and drinking water problems in the area.

An informed source at Islamshahr's Water and Sewage Company, confirming the drinking water problems in the area, said: At present, a project is under way to lay a water pipeline from wells in the Akbarabad area to the area in need of water. With the commissioning of the project the water requirements of the residents of the area will be met.

Last Esfand [21 February to 20 March] the residents of the area congregated in protest at water shortage in the area. However, a number of opportunists caused damage to a number of vehicles, public transport and certain premises, but the Law Enforcement Forces arrested the opportunists and handed them over to the judicial authorities.

Pro-Government Rallies Said Staged

LD0504104995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of people from Islamshahr staged rallies in the streets of the town this morning to condemn the action of a number of opportunists, who took advantage of the legitimate demands of the people about transport and water problems. The marchers carried photographs of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] and the president, as well as banners condemning yesterday's action by some opportunists in the town.

The demonstrators congregated in the square at the Mohammadiyeh residential area, shouting slogans such as: "Khamene'i is the leader, the Prophet's heir"; "Hashemi, Hashemi we support you"; "Death to America, and death to Israel."

At the rally the Friday imam of Islamshahr praised the serving government for the extensive development and infrastructural work it has carried out in various parts of the country. He emphasized the readiness of the people of "Islamshahr to safeguard the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Paper Warns Turkey Over Offensive in Northern Iraq

NC0504090195 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 5 (AFP)—Iran will not tolerate an indefinite occupation of northern Iraq by Turkish troops, a pro-government newspaper warned here Wednesday [5 April], condemning Ankara's military intervention as a "big political mistake."

"What will be absolutely impossible for Tehran to tolerate is the realisation of the circulating rumour that Ankara may declare a segment of northern Iraqi territory as a protected zone," an editorial in IRAN NEWS said.

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"Tehran's reaction, should such a development occur, will be undoubtedly serious. Turkey should realise that (such) a dangerous game will be interpreted as an attempt to alter the region's established geographic borders."

The English-language daily described as a "big political mistake" Turkey's decision to send 35,000 soldiers into northern Iraq on March 20 to destroy bases of the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The offensive is the largest since the PKK launched a guerrilla war in southeastern Turkey in 1984 aimed at establishing a separate Kurdish state.

Previously Iranian officials have been restrained in their criticism of Ankara's intervention, expressing concern and calling for Turkey to pull out. They have not referred to the possibility of Iranian retaliation.

'Serious Reaction' to Turkish Protected Zone Warned

LD0504102095 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Tehran would no doubt show serious reaction if Ankara declare a segment of northern Iraqi territory as a protected zone to remain under Turkish occupation for an indefinite period, said the morning daily 'IRAN NEWS' here Wednesday [5 April].

Referring to the circulating rumour that Turkey may declare protected zone in northern Iraq, the English-language daily wrote in its editorial that leaders of Turkey should realize the fact that embarking on a dangerous game of that nature would be interpreted as an "attempt on their part to alter the region's established geographic border lines: an ominous event which shall undoubtedly bring about a major fresh crisis in this part of the globe."

The paper referred to the recent military offensive of Ankara against the rebel Kurds living in the eastern part of Turkey and the Turkish Army's invasion of northern Iraq and said although the Turkish foreign minister, ardal Inono, described the aim behind Ankara's military incursion into neighboring Iraq as destruction of the bases and ammunition depots operated by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), "the logic of this argument has failed to convince informed observers."

"The rise of the PKK in the last few years has in fact been bred by the mistaken policies of Mrs. Tansu Ciller as well as those of the previous Turkish government," argued the paper.

It added that Ankara's ignorance of the rights of the ten-million-strong Kurdish national minority living in Turkey, combined with its further miscalculations concerning the Kurds in northern Iraq, prompted the Kurds to raise demands for independence.

Encouraged by Ankara's initial green light, the Iraqi Kurds advanced to the point of nearly establishing an independent parliament, wrote the paper. "On the numerous past occasions, we had warned that in the Kurdish card game, the regional states had better play conservatively as this could prove to be a risky adventure," said the paper reiterating "now once again we are of the opinion that the Turkish military incrusion into northern Iraq is a big political mistake with destabilizing consequences for the entire region."

Although it was true that many of the region's major crises have been induced by the unfit rulers of Baghdad, "nevertheless Tehran has expressed its dissatisfaction with the ongoing state of affairs in northern Iraq and the presence of Turkish forces there," stressed the daily.

It noted in conclusion that what would be absolutely impossible for Tehran to tolerate is the realization of the rumour that Ankara may declare a protected zone in northern Iraq.

President Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

First Sermon

LD3103191195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Mar 95

[First Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, introduced by announcer as "Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani", in Tehran on 31 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Before the start of the first sermon, I wish to offer congratulations to the dear members of the congregation on the auspicious occasion of the new year. I beseech Almighty God to grant prosperity, honor, and progress to our noble ummah in the new year.

As you know, in the first sermon we normally discuss social justice. I discussed several particular topics in the sermons last year. Today I shall explain another subject, which is an important aspect of implementing justice in society. I shall also draw your attention to the steps taken by the revolution to realize justice in this field. Meanwhile, I stress the importance of piety and performance of religious duties. Every individual Muslim is duty-bound to avoid forbidden deeds, while continuing the divine path.

One of our main demands before the revolution, for which we strongly criticized the monarchy's regime, was the implementation of justice. They were running the country with tyranny and discrimination; and the revolution had a claim and had set an objective to bring justice to replace all the discrimination. The objective was to give every one his rights and his fair share in society. Despite the short title of the objective, its contents are diverse and its panorama is very extensive.

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Since our people were kept uninformed of world matters, they did not know to what extent their rights were violated. They did not realize the extent of tyranny and discrimination. They used to view the tyranny as a superficial matter. [passage omitted]

In the first five-year plan we tried hard to overcome some of the shortcomings. First of all, we concentrated our efforts to several important sectors, namely education, road building, health and hygiene, electricity, water resources development, and other similar projects, without which the way to people's progress remains blocked.

Earlier this week, I visited a region of the country. No doubt you have heard the details of this tour through the radio and television news. I wish to explain an example of a task performed during the first plan. Of course, this is not part of the discussion I have planned for today; I only mention it as an example. Today I am planning to discuss health and hygiene. I want you to see what is meant by developing the deprived areas. You will then realize what has been achieved and what other tasks are currently performed.

When we discover latent talent among our people, or see some potential in any geographical location of the country, we go there to utilize the talent and to exploit the potential. On the first working day of the new year, last Saturday, I went to open a very important factory, which was completed during the first five-year plan. Unfortunately the mass media did not cover the news of this visit extensively. Here, at the prayers platform, I give you more information. This will please our people. I raise it as a new year present to the society.

I went to open a refinery called the Abadan refinery. But it is not an oil refinery and it is not in Abadan. I was wondering what the connection is between that place and Abadan. The new refinery is in Bandar-e 'Abbas, which is miles away from Abadan. Abadan is located in the southwestern corner of our country, whereas Bandar-e 'Abbas is almost in the south-eastern corner of the country. However, the engineer in charge of the project explained to me that the name Abadan is chosen as a codename. He added: The objective behind creating the codename Abadan is that we believe this project is a rival to the oil industry, and we think that if this work were to continue as seriously as before, it would create something greater than the oil in our country.

Well, after my brief explanation today, you would realize that the engineer's remarks are true. You can see what resources that have not been sought by anyone yet we have in our deprived regions. The place we visited is somewhere between Rudan and Manujan. Rudan is near Bandar-e 'Abbas and Manujan is near Kahnuj in the Kerman province. It is a remote area. Even the university students might not be able to find it on the map. It is a remote, deprived and an underdeveloped area. It is surrounded by the high mountains north of Jask. The area has been unsafe throughout history. It was even so unsafe when we were building the factory that one of the Chinese engineers working on the project was kidnapped by the bandits. The Chinese engineer was kept prisoner for several months. We managed to free him from the detention of the bandits several days ago.

In such an unsafe region we built this huge refinery. There are currently 1,300 young people working there. They were employed from the midst of the inhabitants living in the villages and other deprived regions. They are paid good wages.

As to why that refinery is a rival for oil refineries: there is a mine there, high up in the mountains, reached after passing through many bends, which has chromium ore. Its capacity has been estimated at 20 million tonnes; 3.5 million tonnes of which we are now exploiting. Just the mine ore, without being processed... [pauses] When it is just scooped up with bulldozers and taken to ships: they beg to buy it from us for $110 per tonne. There are seven or eight countries which have chromium mines; we are one of them. So far there have been eight finds. One is near the sea and we mostly exploit that. [passage omitted]

The refinery that they have installed extracts one tonne of what is called ferro-chrome from every two tonnes of ore. That is an alloy for anti-corrosion substances which, as you can notice, is needed for metals. Just recently we sold a consignment of that to Japan. When I was visiting there it was being exported at $650 per tonne. Look at the difference. We sell the ore at $110, but when it is turned into ferro-chrome we sell it at $650. If we go one step further and turn it into pure chrome and stainless steel, that same ore will be worth $2,000 dollars for us. We are now buying it at that price ourselves, when we import it. Look, we are now selling oil at nearly $100 per tonne, with all its expenses—the drilling, the pipelines, the great investments.

These mines are our country's wealth which are spread throughout the state. When I was visiting the Sistan va Baluchestan province I was shown a quarry which they said consisted of 25 kilometers of mountains. The whole mine was of valuable stone.

Sistan va Baluchestan used to be one of the insecure regions and now it is turning into one our secure and prosperous areas.

Just those ordinary quarry stones—granite, marble and others—are found in our country to the extent that they will never be exhausted. They are more expensive than oil right now. The stones are quarried and taken abroad. The first plan followed that sort of task, most of which are located in far-flung areas, mountains and plains and the benefit of them goes to the people who live nearby. All such tasks make deprived areas prosper. We really have had enormous resources. May God damn colonialism and the agents of colonialism inside the country who did not allow this nation to see to its resources. They kept the nation illiterate, sick, abandoned and ignorant so that they could do whatever they wished by saying

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that we have oil; a single commodity. They made us dependent on oil. Then at the same time they took away this valuable treasure of ours which should have been turned into expensive chemicals—you see how expensive they are—and carried them away cheaply.

In any case, the aim of the first plan was to go to remote areas, to pay attention to huge natural and human resources and the right of the deprived. [passage omitted]

Before the revolution, we had 12 universities for medical sciences. They increased to 22 by the year 1368 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1989], just before the plan. Today we have 38 universities..

The number of our students were 25,500 a year before the revolution. That figure reached to 62,000 by 1368, just before the first plan. Today we have 102,000 students studying medical sciences, and that is apart from those who study at the Islamic open university.

The number of academic staff—university teachers and professors in the medical field—before the revolution was 1,950. This number was increased to 3,600 by the year 1368, and now—when I say now, I mean the end of the year 1372 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1993], the figure has been further increased by 1373—there are 8,400 [passage indistinct].

Before the revolution there was only a very small number of dormitories for students. In 1368 there were 11,000 students in dormitories, while today there are 35,000 students in dormitories.

This is about educational facilities for training doctors so that we will be able to provide facilities for remote villages and towns. One cannot send doctors by force. Even if they are sent by force they do not work well. We have compulsory plans, but it is limited in time. In the future it will be such that everybody would volunteer to go to remote places.

Regarding facilities—hospitals, beds, and equipment—before the revolution there were 350 hospitals, in the year 1368 there were 625 and today we have 724 hospitals throughout the country. You should also know that most of the hospitals which have been added to the list are in remote parts, villages and places where they had no such facilities. We have mainly concentrated on remote areas.

Before the revolution there were 56,000 hospital beds, before the plan there were 82,000, and today there are 93,000. Before the revolution there were 14,000 doctors, and a large number of them left the country after the revolution. Those who were not in favor of the revolution left Iran. Before the plan there were 21,500 doctors and today—last year—there were 37,000 doctors. Thanks be to God, we now have a reasonable number, but of course as our universities have expanded this number will increase much further.

Before the revolution there were 7,000 specialist doctors, a large number of whom left the country. Before the plan there were 11,000 and today we have 17,000 specialist doctors. Many remote towns today have the benefit of specialist doctors. Before the revolution a large number of foreign doctors had been invited. Before the plan we had 2,700 foreign doctors, but gradually we are doing without foreign doctors and native doctors are replacing them. There are only 650 foreign doctors who have had contracts from before. Once their contracts have expired they will leave and they will be replaced by Iranian doctors.

During the course of the plan our production of medicine has increased five-fold. The figure for the production of medicine is very high, and today medicine constitutes one of our export items in the types of medicine where we have a surplus.

All this was about providing means. During the course of the plan we spent a large amount of foreign currency to purchase expensive equipment for our medical sector. At the moment we possess advanced medical facilities which do not exist in many countries of the world. They can only be found in a few advanced countries. This was a right which our people deserved, and which we have provided for them.

Complicated medical treatments were not undertaken so much in Iran before. Typically, the wealthy used to go abroad and get their essential medical treatment there at seven tuman [10 rials] for their hard currency [the U.S. dollar] and it was worth it for them. But today in your country the most complicated medical services are being offered by your esteemed doctors. Before the revolution we had only one renal transplant unit and that was in Tehran. Now we have eighteen and most of them are in other cities. At the moment the best heart surgery is undertaken in Iran. If some want to go abroad, it is up to them. We don't recommend that. The waiting period has decreased greatly; methods have become very fast. You see on news bulletins the complicated tasks your doctors are undertaking. [passage omitted]

The result is that we have reached the rural areas. Houses of hygiene and hygiene centers—we give priority to hygiene over treatment—have been extended throughout Iran. Today there are 17,000 hygiene houses and centers are at the service of the people in Iran. They train people, especially women. Usually they go to villages and train men and women from the villages themselves and guide the people as to how look after their children from the start. Before the revolution there were 4,000 such centers. Before the plan there were 10,900 and now 17,000. We have another extensive Plan in hand by the end of which there will not be any villages left without a house of hygiene.

Before the revolution drinking water—which is pivotal for the people's health—was not available much in villages. At the start of the plan 70 percent of the people in rural areas had access to drinking water and now 85

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percent of them have healthy water. Those which do not have drinking water are small hamlets of 10 or 15 families whose turn has not come yet. We will see to them.

Vaccination. Before the revolution, it was undertaken in the cities and in some villages. But before the plan 65 percent of the people had access to it and now 95 percent of the people get vaccinated for epidemics. Consequently we have reduced child mortality situation with the now-existing health care. Before the revolution there were 120 deaths per thousand in rural areas; they were less in the cities. Before the plan it was 37 per thousand and now the rate is 33 per thousand. That is a usual figure and the World Health Organization believes that to be a good figure at the world level. That is because of the health care that has been undertaken for the people.

For the sake of the health of school children we have a large figure in our budget for free meals for school in deprived areas—where usually the children have no access to food as the well-to-do children. The children are given meals or milk or dates or pistachio nuts or other. Three million are covered by the free meals scheme everyday in order to maintain their health.

Another step which has been taken with the guidance of hygiene centers and by means of correct publicity is that the rate of population growth, which posed a danger to Iran as we would not have been able to cope with it, has been reduced from 3.9 percent before the revolution to 3.2 before the plan and today—I mean a year ago—it was 2.3, and today it may be even lower than that. This is a good rate of growth. If we can stick to this rate of growth we will be able to manage it.

Insurance. Today I wish to deal with insurance. One of our major projects has been to pay attention to insurance. We have taken certain steps, but those steps have not been sufficient. This year we are going to take the major step.

So far, what has happened has been as follows: Before the revolution only a small number of people were insured. After the revolution, until a year before the plan, about 13 million people were covered by social insurance and today 17 million people with their families are covered. I mean including the members of their families, not individually. Including the members of their families they amount to 17 million; in addition to government employees and members of the military and security forces which also constitute a multi-million number. The rest of the people are not covered.

During the second plan we should do two important things: One is medical insurance, and the other is social insurance. Medical insurance is very extensive and we have included it in the final years of the second plan. What do we mean by social insurance? It means that we should provide insurance against unemployment and accidents, so that the people can have certainty that even if they lose their jobs they will receive some pay and will be able to afford the minimum standard of living. We are making plans for that and it is not part of my speech today.

What is part of my discourse today is medical insurance. The Ministry of Health and Hygiene has prepared a draft bill and it has been sent to the Majles by the government. The Majles has approved it. We have allocated about 40 billion tuman for it, in addition to what we have so far spent on health and hygiene. In the current year we have added such a large figure to the budget devoted for that.

At the moment, we are ready to provide insurance cover for everyone: the villagers, urban dwellers, shop-keepers, industrial workers, the unemployed and to absolutely everyone—men, women and children—so that all of them can be covered by insurance. This is the only way to improve health and hygiene as well.

If you go to advanced countries you will see that they have no problem with medical treatment, because all the people are insured, all of them as the need arises can go to hospital and be hospitalized, and they pay a little for it. They have access to medical doctors, and at times of illness a heavy cost is not inflicted upon the family. Of course, they pay a little throughout the year, and by paying that little vast sums are provided to the governments who can help the needy.

We realize that there are some people who cannot afford to pay their insurance premium. We have thought of allocating a special fund for them. The budget is given to the Imam [Khomeyni]'s relief committee. The committee will pay the premium for anyone who cannot afford to pay. I am being told that so far about 2.5 million people have contacted the committee and the committee has paid their insurance premium. I ask other such people all over the country, who find it hard to pay their premium, to contact the committee departments of their district. They committee will investigate their request and will pay their premium if necessary. They can become insured without having to pay any money.

You might say that doctors today do not examine those patients who are covered by the national insurance. Of course this is true in some cases, but our plan will make sure that such things do not happen. We shall make certain that all the doctors would admit national insurance patients in the future. I personally inspected several national health hospitals this year. All the patients I visited were very happy. They were saying: We have been admitted to the hospital without having had to pay any anything. We are cared for and are given the necessary medicine. They are not rushing to send us home either. Wherever I visited the national insurance patients in various hospitals in Tehran and other cities, I saw they were satisfied. I recommend that all the people should insure themselves. Those who can afford it—the merchants, the factory owners or those on high income—should pay something towards their insurance. It is not much. Most of the insurance premium is subsidized by the state anyway. On the basis of this move, we must amend the rate of payment to the doctors.

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That is so that the doctors accept any patient and get their fee according to the state rate of payment. On the basis of that assumption, those in need and without remuneration will be insured at the government's expense; the well-to-do will insure themselves and the government will pay its share. We hope to be able to implement the same scheme in our country that is today found in the most advanced states within one or two years.

At the moment we have resources. There is no shortage of hospitals. As I said we have prepared ourselves beforehand. There is no shortage of doctors. There is no shortage of medicine either. Nor is there a shortage of medical equipment. With all that preparation, it is hoped that through an action, which requires the people's cooperation—we need the people's trust in that... [pauses] The people should come and insure themselves. Of course it is possible that during that one year—which is a transitional year... [pauses] People have their own habits in seeking their treatment. Until they get used to insurance there may be some difficulties but that is a transitory thing, and it may only be a few months. I hope that in this important and infrastructural sector—which justice requires... [pauses] Islamic justice obliges us to prepare the conditions for the people's health, hygiene, and the utilization of the people's capacities. We have undertaken our duties in the government and the Majles. God willing, you should benefit from this opportune ground. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon

LD3103210495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 31 Mar 95

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 31 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the second sermon, I shall refer to the important events of the week. At the early moments of the new year we heard the message of his eminence, the leader of the revolution. Our people received effective guidance from him, thank God. I will point to a number of the issues. I think his guidance could very well affect the fate of the country and have positive influence on our lives. His eminence again stressed the advice that he had given last year on helping the correct process of affairs. This year he again stressed the need for financial and economic discipline as well as work ethics. He especially asked us to measure and see how much we have been successful in implementing these things. One of his requirements, which he has also mentioned in my private discussions with his excellency, and which is in the interest of the country, is the need to prevent waste and to promote a spirit of contentment. This is a fundamental and strategic requirement at the present stage of building the country. Of course many people might think that the advice refers to simple things. The press usually fails to study the issue in depth. They pronounce slogans about superficial luxuries. But the issue is fundamentally different.

In order to execute his eminence's requirements and the requirements of the development plan, we, the government, have chosen a consumption model for policy. We have been studying the consumption model for two or three years, and a large book has been prepared. We have decided on the correct lifestyle, and the proper use of provisions and expenditure for all cases. I noticed that the radio and television have started talking about these things on some evenings. I think there has to be some form of comprehensive order, in the shape of a public educational program for the people and government officials. His eminence's audience were the people, the masses of people as well as the government.

I will point out some cases of waste and I will also propose the proper way of dealing with them. There are of course examples. There are thousands more. Things must apply to all cases. One example is that of waste. When his eminence refers to the need to prevent waste, people might not know what is happening to the country's fuel. Instead they start to think about superficial things like clothes, cars, and the like. Of course they are also important. However, the things that are destroying the country and the things which his eminence was stressing are as things such as fuel. The government and the people must both deal with this. You know that we are consuming, per head, more fossil material than any other country. One of the worst cases of waste is using fuel, or the trees, which leads to destruction of forests, or bushes which lead to destruction of the pastures.

Each liter of fuel that we use in waste and each liter of gasoline which we use in waste is a valuable treasure that the country is losing and is a cause of pollution to the living environment. There is no benefit in this waste. It also damages the public purse. In the world today, the price of a liter of gasoline is more than a dollar, more than 400 tuman. This is everywhere. Exceptions are a few countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait where it is about 30 or 40 cents, or somewhere near it, about 100 or 200 tuman. In Iran it is being wasted. It is our responsibility to prevent this. The government has to chose mechanisms, and the people should be vigilant. We would do a great service to our country if we use one meter of gas instead of one liter of gasoline. This would be also good for the country, as well as a factory changing its source of fuel to gas, or a home changing its source of fuel to gas.

Look at the valuable electricity, which has been provided through networks from our great sources to the villages. Look how the government and the public purse have to spend great money to transfer things to your homes. Wasting such things is burning public wealth. Even a single lamp should be used out of waste. No electric samovar should be used out of waste. No heater should be used out of waste. We should use only what we need. We don't say that there is no need to consume nor that

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people should not consume. We say that the society should consume according to its need. We must all decide and the government must decide. The decision, this year, to increase fuel prices should have been done many years ago, so that there would not have been such great difference today. It is not logical to have gasoline at 2 tuman in Iran while it is 120 tuman in our neighboring country, Turkey. The difference creates dangers. There is a danger of this wealth being smuggled, and other things and problems which we face today. Of course we can't put up the prices all at once. We have to do it gradually. And in such conditions people have to be careful not to waste.

Another issue is that of bread. We are turning at least two million tonnes of wheat into bread but throwing it away, and that is a minimum figure. The figure is higher. We are giving seven to eight million tonnes of wheat to the people. Some 30 percent of this is wasted by the baker or the family. Some of it ends up in the bins and is buried. Some of it is bought and given to the cattle owners. Of course the cattle have a need, but this is not the proper way of using bread. We should give the cows and the chickens things such as corn which are cheaper and more nourishing. Why bread? Why should we buy the wheat, import it, store it, bake it, pay for its fuel, and pay for the labor but then change it to cattle food? We could buy corn to feed the cattle at half the expense. Such waste is dangerous. We are now importing about 2.5 million tonnes of wheat. If there was no waste we would not have to import any wheat. Your country does have enough food. The danger of waste, that the leadership is concern about, should not immediately get into your head as being about some luxury things somewhere. The former is the danger. [passage omitted]

The book on a consumption model, which the government has prepared and will be gradually released, has a balanced model for all aspects of life. And we are not trying austerity. When we speak against waste we do not want to damage the public's nourishment. People should have proper nourishment to be healthy. It is needed for children to grow properly. However, we are opposed to waste. We know that there are many people who don't get enough nourishment. We shall continue to support them with supportive policies. I have discussed the new year's message of the dear leader who called, out of compassion, on the people and the government to prevent waste. Of course there is need for more discussion and the media will discuss things in detail. [passage omitted]

Another important issue is that tomorrow is the official day when the Islamic Republic was formed. This is an extraordinary day of blessing and brilliance in the history of human civilization. We do not have a similar day in our history. It is a very honorable and dear day. In the past 1400 years, this was the first time that a nation voted to live under the guidance of the Koran and to live as an Islamic republic.

We miss Imam Khomeyni's son today. Our nation have made us proud in the Islamic world by their action. A work has been carried out in the history of Islam that shall remain for ever. No power is capable to extinguish this great movement that has begun. You can see that they have been and are still trying and struggling to extinguish this holy torch for 16 years. [passage omitted]

I congratulate you and the Islamic ummah on this great day. The other occasion which is sad occasion for us is the loss of the dear, brave and informed son of Imam, our very dear brother, Hajj Ahmad Aqa [Khomeyni]. It was a very sad and unfortunate incident. We were together in the revolution's trenches from a very young age. We know about his services to the country. He never took up an official post to explain his services to the people. He did not want to explain. Prior to the revolution, our confident contact with Najaf and the Imam was through him. He used to carry important secrets from Tehran and Qom to Najaf and from Najaf to Qom and Tehran. This means of contact worked very hard for the revolution. [passage omitted]

Another issue that I should talk about it briefly is the issue of market regulation which is one of our main policies in the current year. We embarked on the policy at the end of the last Iranian year [beginning 21 March 1994]. As I have said, the policy is a very serious and comprehensive one. The period of our production activities has passed. We organized successfully the production activities during the implementation of the first development plan. Today we produce more than 90 percent of our country's requirements, thanks to God. Now the time is right to organize distribution. I have promised the people to embark on this hard and extensive policy. I have already started it. We have well prepared the ground work. God willing, very soon, within the next few days, you will see a long list of the names of various household goods that are priced according to the regulations.

I want to address the producers here. We do not want to bully them either. We have even taken into account the increase in the fuel price and the labor wages—we have increased the laborers and employees wages by 20 percent— in the price regulations. We will review the situation every six months. We will consider realistic prices with suitable profit for both producers and distributors. We shall prevent profiteering. The punishments are serious. The extensive chain stores are serious and the gradual pricing is serious. It means that we are not going to price all the goods at once but we shall price them gradually. Whichever direction the speculating, disruptive merchants turn we will deal with them. We will, God willing, have an Islamic market system in our country after strengthening our production.

The other issue which is important for us, is the irrational [nam'aqul] and reactive [enfe'ali] movements by the Americans in the past few weeks. It is necessary for our nation to be aware of it. The U.S. Administration is approaching Iranian issues in a reactive and irrational manner because of a few serious setbacks that hae

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questioned its honor towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have tried to separate us from other countries, such as Germany, Japan, France, and others. They were not successful. Those countries did not pay any attention to the American demand and continue their path.

The U.S. Administration lost face before its nation. The United States tried to disturb our contract with Russia. The contract which is sound and does not have anything to do with nuclear weapons. It is about a nuclear power station, and most countries of the world own one. This is a right of all the people, especially of a government which has signed the nuclear disarmament treaty. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency every day confesses that Iran is not on the path of production of nuclear weapons. We are making a very sound technical and economic move aimed at using the highly important nuclear power. This is a basic technology which is enjoyed by the world today. America is unjustly seeking to deprive us of this right. Russia knows that America is not honest. At present, America even itself proposes to North Korea to put at their disposal light water reactors to be used in the nuclear station. The Russians know that they will be deprived of their rights when the Americans want to prevent them from exporting technology and inflict an economic blow; the Russians resist it. America has failed here, too, and has lost face.

Concerning the issue of Israel, worst of all, by putting increased pressure on the world countries and forcing them or encouraging them or praising them, the Americans intend to impose an unjust peace on the Palestinian people. Only because the Islamic Republic adopted a just stand—we did not have any practical involvement, we just say that this is not a peace process this is a cruel imposed move. [sentence as heard] America sees that it is not successful in this ground either and it is embarrassed in front of its nation. It has taken a passive stand in this aspect as well. With such feelings of defeat, the American statesmen carry out illogical moves. They officially lie. It is very bad for a defense minister of a superpower such as America to tell the lie that Iran has stocked chemical weapons in the Persian Gulf Islands. They know that we did not resort to using chemical weapons even during the war, despite the fact that Saddam used chemical weapons against us for several years. We are not at all involved in this business. They know it and still tell such a lie, and it is very bad thing.

An American company outside America comes and signs a contract on technical-economic work to be carried out in the sea, for example, to build an oil rig. The American statesmen are showing such a stubbornness that they come and deprive themselves of this economic deal. Their company will benefit from the deal. It is their company's wish to have such a project. They have owned the bidding. [sentence as heard] The French and others all took part at the bidding for the project. The company made concessions to us and offered a cheaper rate. We accepted their offer in accordance with the regulations of the bidding. It was in their interest obviously. If America does not come forward to build it, we shall build it ourselves. Iranian construction ability is very high. Although we would have benefitted from their technology if they had built it, today we are not unable to carry out such tasks. We can find a capital for it from some other source.

In addition, the customers for these projects are not limited. There are companies in many countries that are willing to take part in such projects. America is only harming its own companies just for stubborn, reactionary posturing in the face of a revolution. I think that that ill behooves a superpower which has to have control over its nerves and has to find the roots of its defeat. It should not carry out such measures that are not favored by anyone. For example, it put pressure on Japan and says to them, for example, that they should not go and build Karun dam for Iran. Don't they build the dam? They have provided a budget and credit for it. Iran, today, builds the world largest dams. The construction of a dam for us is like building an ordinary building.

The expenditure is mainly in rials be it for cement, steel, manpower, design, and supervision. Everything is carried out by Iranians. Even if Japan had given us its yen, they would have had to be converted to rials to be expended in Iran. Iran cannot be affected by that country building or not building the project. What happened to the previous joint Iranian-Japan petrochemical project, which was not completed because the Japanese were afraid of the Iran-Ira war and as a result we suffered losses amounting to one billion dollars. Today the same plant produces three and a half million tonnes of chemical substances which Japan cannot get themselves. The plant belongs to us; we built it ourselves and we are producing from it.

The Iran of today is no longer the Iran that existed during the time of the Shah. The Iran of today is a country which itself designs and carries out all its military, oil, petrochemical, gas, and industrial projects. Our contractors are successfully bidding significant tenders in other regions of the world. As I already mentioned, America is mistaken. It will suffer the adverse results itself. We are not deflected by such issues and we shall pursue our path.

We are prepared to undergo some financial losses but not prepared to lose our aspirations and principles. [Crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Down with America," "Down with Israel"]

Thank you, and unfortunately still the world of Islam is faced with many problems. Aggression, tyranny and killings are continuing in Bosnia, insecurity and instability continue to be the painful facts in Afghanistan and unfortunately, Muslims are subjected to tyranny in Iraq, Karabakh, Palestine, Lebanon and many other countries. I beseech God Almighty adequate pride for the Islamic ummah to defend Muslims. [passage omitted]

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Official, AL-MAJALLAH on Relations with Arabs

95LA0132A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15 Jan 95 p 13

[Letter to the editor by Ambassador Sabah Zanganeh followed by response by Editor in Chief 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Honorable Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid, Editor-in-Chief of AL-MAJALLAH Magazine

Dear Sir:

Respectful greetings. You presented to us on the pages of AL-MAJALLAH an article with an interesting title, "Iran and the Arabs." Let me tell you truthfully that I read the articles you write in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and in AL-MAJALLAH, and I find in them a truthful presentation of the facts and an analysis of many matters. I also find that your presentation of important issues is noble-minded and that it is done in a responsible and nontraditional manner.

This does not mean that I agree or disagree with you. It rather means that your articles contain elements that make me think more, and that is to be applauded.

In your article, "Iran and the Arabs," you fell into the trap set by those who wish to portray the relationship between Iran and the Arabs as an adversarial relationship involving inevitable conflict and discord. This portrayal is the same one used in the Ba'th Party's dialectical debate.

History attests to the fact that relations between Islamic peoples, Arabs as well as Iranians, have been far-reaching. These relations involve the literature and the cultures of these peoples. Arabs and Iranians intermarried and interacted with each other culturally, educationally, socially, economically, and even politically.

We can go along with those who believe in the conspiracy theory and say that there are those who do not want Arabs and Iranians to coexist. We can say that there are those who try to spread hostility between the two peoples or imagine such hostility and discord because they want to fish in troubled waters. The history of British colonialism in the region is not unknown to anyone. A jackal repents when he dies.

Let me invite you, if I may, to consider a line of verse by an Egyptian poet who said, "The distant can be nearby, and the nearby can be distant." Do you not think that there is a significant amount of truth in that line?

But let us set aside literature and poetry and explore history. Let us explore, in particular, recent centuries that have given the globe its shape and political contours. Would we find in those centuries any indication that Iran was contemplating occupying the territories of neighbors and expanding the territory of an Iranian empire?

And as we approach the threshold of our contemporary age, do you not find that it is Iran that has been the victim of blatant, long-standing, and extensive aggression by its neighbors with what they call the Arabs' eastern gateway?

Let us agree about the chicken and egg argument that is brought up in connection with the question of which side started arming itself first and which is making preparations for the threats that are coming from "the other shore." That argument is nothing but a deliberate attempt to distract everybody and increase tension, rage, and competitiveness. Arms dealers are the only ones who benefit from that.

Iranian officials serving as spokesmen for Iran have declared officially and repeatedly that Iran was willing to take confidence building and mutual dependence measures in the region. Because some thought such calls were the result of weakness and submissiveness, they proceeded to raise the stakes and set forth preconditions. That indicated, if it indicated anything at all, a lack of clear vision.

Despite its "pitfalls," I find in your article a tolerant outlook, a sense of awareness and maturity, and positive signs.

It was said a long time ago that a stone cast by a mad man wears out 100 sane persons. This applies to the war that was started by Saddam. Reconciliation, however, is a participatory formula. This is how it is defined by the Iranian Sibawayh, the dutiful scholar of the Arabic language.

[Signed] Your brother, Sabah Zanganeh, Ambassador and permanent representative of the Iranian Islamic Republic at the Islamic Conference Organization in Jeddah

[Rashid's response] The letter from Iran's ambassador and permanent representative expresses views about issues over which the confrontation has gone on for such a long time, that they seem to us to be inescapable. We like to hear such views even when our own views about the causes of these issues differ.

I do not believe that conflict, not even with Israel, is inevitable, even though many people think it is both inevitable and necessary. Because Iran is an integral part of our region and has been for hundreds of consecutive centuries an active and a positive part of its history, I am not inclined to see a conflict with Iran as inevitable. I am, nevertheless, annoyed with contemporary Iran, which insists on fighting the wind, thereby diminishing the positive value it can realize for itself with its considerable clout, which is its latent capability. Iran had and still has the time to make a positive contribution to the region by managing it so that it serves its interests first as well as

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those of the region. It is my opinion, as I mentioned previously, that it is Iran, more than any other country, that holds the keys to a solution in the region.

And yet it must be said, underscoring your statement, that there is nothing worse than becoming victims of a policy that relies exclusively on suspicions and perceptions in setting its course. Such a policy is dangerous because it leaves us prey to illusions that we are compelled to believe. And here I neither absolve the Arabs of blame nor point an accusing finger at Iran. I do say, however, that the relationship between Iran and the Arabs in the modern age is a poor example of life in dark caves where we rely on our imagination as we go around fumbling for what stands between us.

In such pitch-black darkness we have no recourse but to rely on interpretations, not on facts. This is because our true relationships with each other, not to mention the superficial diplomatic ones, have been cut. I find it regrettable that the imperatives of human conflict, such as those imposed by differences over outlets or resources, have not imposed a "normal" conflict between us. Iran, which is supposed to be a natural ally of its Arab neighbors, has regrettably fallen into the trap of "perceived mutual hostility," and we too have fallen into that trap with it.

Perceptions of hostility between the two sides do exist, and although the causes of such hostility may be imaginary or flimsy, these perceptions are not figments of the imagination. One cannot dismiss as hostile language that one hears on Iranian radio broadcasts and in statements made by Iranian officials. One cannot do that when one reviews the religious Friday speeches and examines the general trend of thought that represents the course of action of those in power. In fact, the language is brutal in its hostility. By comparison, the reactions of the Gulf countries, except for those of official Iraq, are more reserved and more polite. The language of official Iraq is foul and embarrassing, and even the most chauvinistic Arabs find it distasteful. But this is the language that the Iraqi media uses with itself and with others.

I join you in rejecting the notion that a conflict with Iran is inevitable, because such a notion constitutes hostile perceptions that are based on unsubstantiated premises. It was said once that a latent dispute between Sunnis and Shiites appears to underlie the political dispute with Tehran. The most eloquent refutation of such a perception, however, can be found in the vicious war that was fought between the Gulf countries and Iraq, all of which are ruled by Sunni leaders. Accordingly, a sectarian view is not the cause of the dispute with Iran.

It was also said that the dispute with Tehran is based on the notion of conflict over controlling the waters of the Gulf. Fortunately for everyone, however, the map of the Gulf makes it clear that no one singlehandedly holds the key to these waters. Iran is not blocked; its shore line is long and runs parallel to the waters of the Gulf, and it has a cape overlooking the Straits of Hormuz. It also has sole access to a large body of water that connects to the Indian Ocean. Iran is not like Russia, blocked in by the Turkish straits, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Therefore, it has no reason for basing its defensive concerns on a strategy for finding a permanent and safe outlet.

Another time it was said that the dispute with Tehran was based on oil resources, which are undoubtedly one of the more prominent reasons for general tension in the Gulf region. But Iran is a very important oil country and, unlike Turkey, it does not import oil. The relationship between Iran and its Arab neighbors, then, is not one of a country that is parched for oil and another that is wallowing in it. The fact is that all the parties to this dispute are sitting on the largest sea of oil in the world.

What remains then is a dispute that is purely political: it is a dispute about which much has been said. Although we would admit here that the foreign policies of Iran and the Gulf states are sometimes contradictory, that is actually not always the case. Also, these policies are not that much antithetical, as Iran's policies have been in the seventies with the policies of Ba'th Iraq or those of communist South Yemen. Iran has chosen a religious, conservative policy for itself, approximating thereby the formula of the Gulf states which preceded Iran in pursuing such a policy 50 years before the onset of the religious revolution in Iran.

Although we think that Iran and the Gulf states have no reason for clashing with each other, all indicators regrettably warn that the two ships are set on a collision course. Herein lies the danger. What increases the likelihood of a possible collision between the Gulf states and Iran is the adoption of theoretical perceptions on both the practical political and military levels about hostility between the two sides. Tehran, which consented to the principle of power distribution in Abu Musa, the UAE's [United Arab Emirates] island, horrified citizens of the Gulf states by occupying the island. Let me repeat this example once again for emphasis. I repeat it to clarify what I mean by living in caves and depending on our perceptions of matters around us. The United Arab Emirates, which consented to partnership with Iran in the seventies is seeing its neighbor expel residents of the island and establish there schools, police stations, a military force, and courts. Iran is even organizing athletic tournaments on the island for teams representing all Iranian provinces. Iran is reminding us in this instance of Iraq's conduct in Kuwait after it occupied that country. The stage is being set for a clash. Given this situation, it would be difficult for us to believe, unless we are guileless, that Iran's action is not an indication of its intentions. Nor can we ask the less powerful Gulf states to refuse the assistance of someone offering them a life jacket, even a foreign one, which would save then from drowning. But our brothers in Iran are warning us that this life jacket will make everyone drown. And we repeat: "We see no other alternative."

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Commentary Reviews Evolution of Islamic Republic

NC0104073195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 1 Apr 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every year 12 Farvardin [1 April] is a reminder of the indefatigable efforts and selflessness of the people who, relying on themselves and on divine succor, created a new system of government based on Islamic tenets. It was in those days, as was proved by the results of the people's votes, that the formation of the Islamic Republic was announced in Iran.

Following the downfall of the hereditary monarchical system, which was carried out with the cooperation and coordination of all social strata, this new system took over the reins of government in our country. Such an event was unprecedented in the history of Iran. It was also considered an extremely rare phenomenon in the history of the world and opened a new chapter in the area of existing concepts on the evolution of governmental systems.

What transpired 16 years ago on this day in Islamic Iran marked not only the end of all despotic policies and tactics based on the government of an individual, but it also endorsed new trends based on Islamic tenets and the will of the people. This had been the most important objective of the Iranian people for many years.

On the other hand, this phenomenon was considered the exception to the rule when compared with other government systems, because the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran did not come about through a military coup d'etat or with the intervention of a foreign force, nor did it depend on the opulent and privileged class. It emerged through the capable hands of a nation relying on the boundless divine power of the Almighty. Thus a new phenomenon took shape that drew the attention of the oppressed nations.

It is clear that this sacred system aimed at the complete attainment of the lofty objectives of Islam is even now dependent on the power of the people. Accordingly, any efforts to exert duress on the part of the greater colonial powers do not generate any qualms or fears among them.

Commentary on Ways To Reduce Inflation, Prices

NC0404083195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Based on a decision by the staff in charge of market regulation, the list and prices of 350 locally manufactured industrial products will be published today. According to a report presented by the minister of industries to staff yesterday, the prices of these goods have been calculated on the basis of the general rules laid down by the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization and based on exchange rates and the role of fuel and wage cost in the finished prices. Producers are dutybound to offer these products extensively at prices that have been laid down so that a monopoly in the sale of these products will be prevented.

The unrestrained rise in prices, which started early this year on the pretext of an increase in the price of fuel and wages, is expected to be harnessed and there should be relative stability in the prices of basic goods.

The truth is that despite the government's spectacular achievements in creating infrastructural opportunities and in commencing hundreds of production projects in the country, since the second half of 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] the rise in inflation and rapid price hikes have become elements that disturb the people's daily lives, such that the government has had to set out the prices of many basic products. This step will put pressure on the country's industries. But in view of the need for this, all the production units, state companies in particular, must increase output, decrease expenditure, and make further use of domestic facilities so that they will increase their production capacity and decrease the price of their finished products. This is one of the significant elements that will help to improve the country's economy and control inflation.

Thus the capability of the managers of industry, most of which are under the umbrella of the government and state companies, should concentrate on ways to increase production and make better use of potential and of macro-investments so that industrial growth will be possible while meeting society's needs.

By explaining the general economic situation and the reason for the emergence of recent inflationary pressure on society, the people will cooperate and assist in controlling consumption, especially of imported products or products for which large amounts of foreign exchange are needed. Society's acceptance of the conditions stemming from economic transition and its resulting bottlenecks undoubtedly depend on stopping waste in the state institutions, on not granting special concessions to some individuals, and, in short, on observing economic and monetary discipline.

Official Notes Growth of Tehran Stock Exchange

LD0404111595 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—A total of 150 million shares worth rls. [rials] 800 billion were traded at the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) during the year 1373 (March 1994-March 1995), a TSE senior official said.

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In an exclusive interview with the English daily IRAN NEWS yesterday, TSE Secretary-General Allahverdi Raja'i Salmasi, said that the figure showed a growth of 54 percent over the last year.

He added that "with the approval of a bill which allowed transfer of stock to isargars and janbazan (devotees and disabled veterans) we will witness increased sale of government and large company shares in the coming years which will give a boost to the stock exchange."

Salmasi noted that at the beginning of the year 183 companies were registered with the TSE but the number increased to 204 by the end of 1373.

Commenting on the problems facing the stock exchange, he remarked that "unfortunately the stock exchange has not fully promoted in the country and no definite policy is established for foreign investment in Iran and the taxation law needs to be amended."

"On top of all this, our stock exchange regulations do not fit the international norm," he added.

He believed it necessary to change the structure of the stock exchange to meet the present requirements. A draft covering new regulations has been prepared by the TSE and the Ministry of Economy which requires the approval of the authorities.

"Introduction of a recent law which binds TSE to pay 1.5 percent of its revenue to the government has slowed the pace of TSE activities. It is therefore necessary to amend this law to create motivation for stock transactions," the TSE executive said.

He said it was also necessary to issue different stock shares to make a diversion in stock transactions.

According to Salmasi, in more than five years of TSE's life, 376 million shares worth rls. 2,215 billion were traded at the Tehran stock exchange, 60 percent of which were traded by government departments.

"The regional federation of stock exchange will hold a meeting on May 14 at Istanbul where representatives from 15 countries from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia will be represented.

The conference will study the articles of association, will determine the location of the secretariat and elect the chairman and secretary-general of stock exchange. Iran will actively participate in this gathering," Salmasi concluded.

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses Nation on Karachi Situation

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[Address by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the nation on 30 March; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] My dear countrymen, my brothers, noble citizens, and my sisters: I salute the valiant political workers who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for democracy, the political leaders endeavoring to strengthen democratic institutions, and modest and honorable Pakistanis from Khunjerab Pass to Karachi. Today, the matter I am going to discuss with you will also definitely worry you. The reports on Karachi will also make you restless. Every Pakistani's heart weeps when blood is shed anywhere in Pakistan. Then when attacks are mounted on worshippers in mosques and Shi'ite places of worship in the biggest city of the country established in the name of Islam, which Pakistani's heart will not bleed? First, I will request that you offer prayers for those innocent people who have been killed in the incidents of violence in the recent past; to express sympathy with those families whose loved ones have been the victims of the bullets of ruthless murderers. My heart goes out to those families. My sympathies as a prime minister, sister, and daughter are with those families.

I promise that the government will lead the murderers to the gallows. Most of them have been apprehended by the government. A gang of those who spill blood on the sacred floors of the mosques has been apprehended. Some persons who were trained in India have also been nabbed while indulging in sniper firing. Elements of linguistic groups involved in incidents of terrorism have been caught by the government. In addition to this, some criminals involved in incidents of shooting at the Masjid-i-Akbar, Gulshan-i-Iqbal mosque school, Babul Islam Mosque, and Hussainia Imambargah have been arrested. I appeal to the citizens of Karachi and of all of Pakistan to come forward and cooperate with the government. Every citizen should play its role in tackling terrorism.

The terrorists want to create fear and terror through terrorism, so that the people become silent and be intimidated by terrorism, but the Pakistani citizens will not be intimidated by terrorism. The citizens of Pakistan will resist the terrorists. The terrorists choose the place where no official of the government is present. They go to the place where the law enforcement agencies are not present, and they complete their criminal acts in 40-50 seconds, that is in less than a minute, and then they flee and try to hide in the big city. However, when they carry out any incident, our citizens happen to be present there, and we appeal to the citizens not to be silent because of fear. Whenever, God forbid, such an incident takes place, or when they see in their locality or their ward that some people carrying arms are moving around and take people hostage or steal cars, they should call the special telephone numbers we have set up. First, we have set up a monitoring cell in the chief minister's house, and it is my wish that whenever any such incident takes place, the citizens should forthwith call the Chief Minister's Monitoring Cell, or Citizens Police Liaison Committee, or the special police telephone numbers and apprise them of the details.

We arrested a number of people. God willing, more terrorists will be caught with the cooperation of the

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people, and then complete peace will be restored in Karachi. Karachi is the capital of Sindh; Karachi is the port of Pakistan, Karachi has a special status; we want to ensure that people visit this big city with safety.

Every Pakistani is asking the question as to why the terrorists chose Karachi as the hub of their dangerous activities. It is a long story. As I said, Karachi is Pakistan's financial center. Karachi is the most important port of Pakistan. All big industries, trading companies, and headquarters of Pakistani and foreign banks are located in Karachi. The country's biggest stock exchange is in Karachi. Defensewise, Karachi has a special status. Installations of Pakistan's Navy are in Karachi, and naval ships remain anchored at the Karachi coast. Pakistani Air Force agencies and Army cantonments are also in this city. Our major oil refinery is also in this city. By making repeated attacks on Karachi in the 1971 war, the enemy gave the signal that now Karachi would be its target. Their military experts had narrated their strategy in books that they would prepare the plan to create chaos and uncertainty. The enemy made persistent attempts to send its agents to Sindh.

Terrorism could have been checked in the beginning, but it is unfortunate to say that terrorists used to enjoy political protection. It is unfortunate to say that former governments lacked the courage to separate terrorism from their political gains. If we separate terrorism and politics, then, I believe, terrorism will be wiped out from Pakistan. There will be no place for terrorism in Pakistan. It is unfortunate to say that if anyone is caught while sniper firing or with arms on the street then it is said that they are innocent. In other countries, they say if there is a terrorist, if your authorities catch someone firing on the street, then hang him. However, here, instead of cooperating with the government, it is said that they are innocent their release is requested. It is unfortunate to say that due to this political pressure, terrorists repeatedly commit terrorism and then get released. There have been many incidents, my brothers and sisters, when terrorists were arrested and later released on bail. There were lot of terrorists who committed 10, 12, or 13 terrorist acts and were arrested and then released. This is why I have come before you today to say that we can contain terrorism.

We will differentiate between politicians and terrorists. We will differentiate between crime and politics. However, we need the assistance of the people and our journalist brethren in this task so that when we take action against terrorists through the government, then no political voice should be heard in their favor. Nevertheless, I pledge before the people of Karachi, the people of Sindh, and the people of Pakistan that as you have vested me with the responsibility and have given the responsibility to the people's government, whatever the pressure on us, if we feel that some person has murdered somebody, some person resorted to sniper firing, some person hijacked a vehicle, and some person has fired on a mosque, we will not spare him, whatever the pressure. Because, the responsibility... [pauses] as we take oath—we take oath before the Constitution and in the presence of God—we feel that it is our responsibility not to think about merely pursuing politics and not to think about our popularity only, but we should think about what is good for the progress of the nation. We will definitely fulfill this responsibility.

The politics of terrorism has become a culture. People have started using the language of terrorism. People have started saying: Sell the VCR and buy a Kalashnikov. It is wrong. Nobody should sell a VCR or a television set and buy a Kalashnikov. The quantum of weapons existing in a city will proportionately give cover to terrorism. In a city, how can the officials differentiate between terrorists and the lawful? That is why we say that a civilian should not purchase a Kalashnikov. There is freedom in Pakistan. Under the Constitution, there is freedom of expression. Definitely, everybody has the right to join a political party, if he wants to. If he wants to join another political party, he can definitely do it. However, we cannot say that if anybody wants to change his political affiliation, he will be regarded as a traitor and one who deserves death. Definitely not. We cannot allow the pursuit of this kind of politics. We appeal to our brothers to give up this kind of politics and come to the path of the politics of democracy; give up the politics of weapons and pursue true politics; express an opinion; criticize the government; and use the parliamentary language.

This is the age of parliament. This is not the age of weapons. We remember that even the newspapers are being attacked. If any newspaper writes the truth, it is attacked. We have also seen that the newspaper editors were targeted. I would like to say that all this is the culture of terrorism. It is a culture that harms the people. If we attack newspapers [as heard]—of course, if newspapers report incorrect things, you write to them. If newspapers report something incorrectly, you go to the courts and file libel suits. If somebody is caught while committing a sniper shooting and if the newspaper reports it, and later if the newspaper is attacked to prevent it from publishing the truth and to prevent the people from knowing which party activists are indulging in terrorism, we cannot permit it. A situation was created in Karachi in which journalists were afraid of reporting the truth. They were thinking that if they were to report that a particular person was caught while committing a terrorist act, he would come to their office and attack them or would go to their homes and kidnap their children. We cannot permit this. That is why, today I have come before you to say that I am your sister and to promise that I will not do what was done in the past. I will not be afraid of political pressure. I will fear the people's court. The government and I will do what our conscience dictates is in the interest of Pakistan and in the interest of those living in Karachi.

If the largest industrial and commercial center is crippled, the economy of the entire nation is crippled. The previous government also knew about this conspiracy.

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Terrorists are active in cities and robbers in villages. That is why the Nawaz Sharif government decided to send the Army to Sindh.

We did not wish to assume power by playing a gory carnival with blood of the poor. Therefore, we did not compromise with these forces. We repeatedly invited all political parties and asked them to extend their cooperation to the government in eliminating terrorism and not to think about power. In a democratic country, elections are a regular feature. We told them: Have patience, elections will come. When the elections are held, present your program and plans before the masses. The people will elect you if they like your programs; but when you know that a delicate situation exists in Karachi; when you know that terrorist incidents are taking place in Karachi, then it is your duty to strive to create peace and tranquillity inside Karachi and not try to cause any more damage. Some people think that they will come to power by taking advantage of the situation, but I wish to tell them that nobody can assume power by creating bloodshed and stepping over dead bodies. God is the witness. All political parties should cooperate with the government, because the government is doing only what the people of Karachi, the people of Sindh, and the people of the entire nation want to be done.

The government is bringing investment into Karachi. The government wants to create an atmosphere in Karachi that could help in attracting investment, eradicating unemployment, improving the life of the people, and creating a bright future for their children; therefore, it is the duty of the rest of the political parties and other associations to keep in mind the abnormal situation existing in Karachi and not take any action that may further worsen the situation. I would like to make it clear to all today that the government will mete out the most stringent punishment to those arrested on charges of being involved in incidents like kidnapping for ransom, shooting at pedestrians, or stealing cars.

Today in Pakistan, elements spreading religious prejudices, ethnic hatred, and terrorism, and those strengthening the hands of such persons are called neither Muslims nor Pakistanis. A political party whose candidate was elected from Karachi demanded the withdrawal of Army from Karachi. We pulled out the troops in November, thus fulfilling their biggest demand. I also told him that we will withdraw the troops, because it is not the job of the Army to continuously engage in internal policing. I told him that since you have been elected from there, it is your duty, too, to help and support the government in the restoration of peace. I regret to say that when we withdrew the Army, the incidents of terrorism started to recur. I talked to the official and said you are an elected leader. Don't you know what is happening in your constituency? Don't know what is happening in your polling station? Or you know, but you are not telling us, or you don't know; but this means that you will become irrelevant. If you want to remain relevant, you will have to serve the people, and you will have to identify these people. You will have to forget your demand that the people who have been caught while indulging in sniper firing, those who have been arrested and detained with unlicensed arms be released. I also want to tell you that in our country, many people have the misunderstanding that crime can be resolved through political means. There is no political solution to crime. The only solution to crime is punishment. When the criminal knows that he will not be released from jail, when he knows that no political party can get him released from jail, when the criminal knows that no political leader can help them get out of the jail, then he and other criminals will get scared. However, presently, the terrorists or criminals think they don't need to care because when they steal a car, they will receive hundreds of thousands of rupees. When they murder someone, they will receive money from those who give them compensation for committing such murder, and they will get off scot free. This is wrong.

Those who commit the crimes will surely be punished. There are people who say that crimes are committed because there is chaos. This is a strange logic. Chaos exists in many countries. Chaos is not only in Karachi, it is all over Pakistan. We are a poor country. There are people throughout Pakistan who do not have water, and they are worried. There are people who do not have a cooking gas connection; they are worried, too. People who do not have electricity are also worried. However, to be worried does not mean that people become terrorists. There is now 20 percent unemployment in Spain, but there is no terrorism in their capital. It is a very strange thing; it is very wrong. It is the duty of leaders to make people understand that if they are worried, then they should join the political struggle of political parties. They should find out what causes the worries. Who did the people vote for in the Sindh capital of Karachi in 1988, or 1990, or last year? Were they not in power? What had these elected representatives been doing then if the people of Karachi were worried? It is my question to them: What had you been doing for the people of Karachi? What did you do when you were elected, when you were running the affairs of Karachi Municipal Corporation [KMC], or when you were in charge of the Karachi Development Authority, when you were administering the Water Board, when you were running the provincial government? What improvement was there in Karachi when you were in charge of the provincial and federal governments under Nawaz Sharif? Was peace restored in Karachi, was the water supply improved in Karachi, did the power supply system in Karachi become better, were bridges or fly-overs constructed in Karachi? What did Karachi get? This is not my question; this is the question of the people of Karachi, Sindh, and Pakistan.

My brothers, do you know the budget of the KMC? It has an annual budget of 4.5 billion rupees. That means 20 billion rupees [figure as heard] have been wasted in seven years. Chaos was created in Karachi, because those who had been running the affairs of Karachi for seven years did not spend the funds collected from Karachi on

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Karachi itself. You go to Karachi and see, there is no road, no bridge, no drinking water. The funds were not spent on the most densely populated city with a 4.5-billion rupee annual budget. The seven year's money—20 billion rupees—of Karachi have been lost, 20 billion rupees. This is why we have appointed an administrator in KMC and told him that funds from Karachi will be spent on Karachi. The people who had been running the administration of Karachi wanted the frustration, they used to create frustration and then politically exploit the situation and then used to say there is nothing in Karachi. Why is there nothing in Karachi? Because they did not spend the money on Karachi.

We would like to tell you that when you elected the people's government and we appointed the administrator in KMC, then we came to know that there was not even a sewage disposal system in Karachi. Where should we have started from then? Despite the damages in the past, we will, God willing, start the work. It will take time. There is need to have patience, but I know that the situation will improve, both ways—in regard to peace as well as development. A big city like Karachi, where 12 million people live, had no sewage disposal system and no incinerator. We have now ordered a sewage disposal system so that the waste from surgeries carried out in hospitals is truly disposed. We have ordered an incinerator, too, so that the garbage in such a big city like Karachi is disposed of in a real sense.

We have completed the Shahid-i-Millat Flyover in Karachi. We launched this project in 1988, but money had not been released for this. We released the money and completed the flyover, which has benefited a large number of Karachi residents. We are planning some more projects. We want to build the Liari Expressway. We want to build a southern bypass at a cost of 3 billion rupees, and with this, I think, the Karachi residents will get considerable relief from the present traffic congestion. We plan to build desalinated water plants along with the energy plants to make drinking water available to the people of Karachi. You know that an action plan of 121 billion rupees has been prepared under the Karachi Plan. When the government is preparing a plan worth 121 billion rupees; when the government is giving so much attention to Karachi to win the hearts of the people of this city; when the attention of the government and that of the entire Pakistan is devoted to Karachi; when the entire people of Pakistan want to see peace restored to Karachi; when the whole of Pakistan desires that money be spent on Karachi to facilitate movement to and from Karachi port; when the people from the four provinces of Pakistan— who live in Karachi—want peace and tranquillity in Karachi and safety for their brothers and sisters living there; when all these things are happening, the question arises as to what is the motive for this terrorism and militancy. What do they want to achieve by indulging in militancy? I want to ask them: What do you want to achieve? I tell them you will not succeed in achieving your objective, but we still want to know what your designs are. If your objective is to establish peace, then the government is working for peace; if it is development, then the government is working for development. However, if the purpose of militancy is to hamper development and peace, then I would like to declare today that the militants will not succeed in their designs. False rumors are spread to encourage militants. Sometimes, the militants are told that the patient [Muhajir Qaumi Movement Leader Altaf Hussain, who is suffering from a kidney problem and undergoing treatment in London] is coming. I tell the militants that no patient is coming. Whoever tells you that [India's] Research and Analysis Wing will assist you or somebody else will assist you, and if you are looking for assistance from outside the country, then nobody will help you. Nobody but the people of their own country can help any person, individual, or any government. The strength of a country lies in its people, its poor, its oppressed citizens, and its workers, and when these people are on your side, then you can boldly face the world. Your government, therefore, accepts every challenge and faces it because we have been elected by workers, laborers, and the oppressed people. They have elected us because they want a bold government to assume the reins of power, which can work to alleviate poverty with courage. We want only peace. Therefore, we will not compromise with any criminal or militant. Those who have been convicted and punished by the court can file their appeal in court. They are free to appeal. The doors of the courts are open for all and sundry. I advise them to go to court but not to make it a political issue.

The people say that my father, too, was in jail and I demanded his release. Yes, I did, because he was not only my father, but also an elected prime minister of Pakistan.

At that time, the Constitution had been abrogated. Today, the Constitution does not stand abrogated. At that time, the Supreme Court chief justice was forced to retire, and and PCO [Provisional Constitution Order] was passed. Today, that situation does not prevail. It was the era of martial law. Now, there is no martial law. Now, please think that Pakistan is a democratic country. If anybody gets punishment in England, America [preceding two words in English], Bangladesh, or any other democratic country, he goes to the courts, and likewise you here also turn to the courts. The judiciary is independent today. Journalists are free today. Today, there is no restriction on political parties. As a democratic environment is prevailing in the country, your duty is to go to the courts and not to exert any political pressure, because there is total freedom here. After going to the courts, you prove that you are innocent. This is not the task of the government, to become a priest and decide who is an offender and who is not. The responsibility of the government is to apprehend those about whom it has doubts and take action against them. The rest is the duty of the judiciary. There should not be any political solution to a crime. Of course, the solution to political problems can be found through political dialogue. If anybody wants to talk to us about

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politics and tell us that Orangi needs schools; and tell us that Korangi needs roads; and that the school admission policy should be in this or that manner, our doors are open. Please come, and we will meet with you. We will listen to you and will heed your suggestion. However, if somebody comes to us and says please withdraw a case and release a person who was caught with weapons, it is not possible. If you say that politics is one thing and terrorism is another, crime is one thing and politics is another, according to law, the remedy against crime is only punishment. As long as the system of punishment and retribution is not established in Pakistan, we cannot rid our society of violence. Those who are indulging in violence do not want the progress of Pakistan. They want the continuation of poverty in the country.

When I go to a foreign country, I achieve something or other. When I was in France, I was discussing rural telecommunications [preceding two words in English] to bring telephones to our villages. When I was in Singapore... [pauses] Why did I go to Singapore? I did not go to Singapore for tourism. I went to Singapore to bring finance to Pakistan—to bring finance to Karachi. I signed the memorandum of understanding [preceding three words in English] for $190 million there for Karachi's bypass [road] so that Karachi will be developed, and along with the development of Karachi, the entire country will be developed. It is not that I just go to any foreign country. However, if anybody comes to visit Pakistan from a foreign country, then a strike call is given at that time itself to block foreign investment. The people of Pakistan know that those who want to discourage foreign investment, and those who do not want investment here, are not the friends of the poor people of Pakistan, but their enemies. We will bring foreign investment. Let them hatch their conspiracies; however, we have brought foreign investment and will bring more. There is the hydrocrackers [oil refinery] project. [preceding two words in English] It is a half-million dollar project—not half a million rupees—which has been launched inside Karachi and whose ground-breaking ceremony was accomplished by me. Along with this, we have obtained a loan of $700 million from the Asian Development Bank [ADB] so that the transmission line in Karachi... [pauses] When electricity is transmitted, it is done through wires. The wiring system in Karachi was spoiled, because it was not repaired by anybody—nobody tried to fix it. After obtaining a loan of $700 million we are fixing the transmission lines to transmit electricity to the people of Karachi.

Simultaneously, we signed an agreement for a thermal power plant amounting to 3 billion rupees. My brothers and sisters, if my heart did not grieve for Karachi, then we could have set up the thermal power plant anywhere, anywhere in Pakistan. It was not necessary that the thermal power plant be installed in Karachi. Similarly, the transmission line for which we received a $700 million loan could have been installed anywhere if your sister's heart were not grieved over Karachi. This is despite the fact, as you know, that whether it is the elections for the membership of the National Assembly or the membership of the provincial assembly we get very fewer votes in Karachi. However, I did not think that I should spend where I get more votes. I decided to spend all over Pakistan regardless of where we get votes or where we do not because I am the prime minister of all Pakistan. I am not only for the places where you have voted for me. The government is the Government of Pakistan, and we are striving for the whole of Pakistan. We are striving for Karachi because the grief of the people of Karachi can be felt by all Pakistanis, and this is why we have paid attention to Karachi, to alleviate the grief of the people of Karachi and to improve the situation there, to restore peace, to reassure the unemployed, and to remove the people's frustration, and this is why we are spending so much money on Karachi.

A total of 3 billion rupees are being spent on the energy package alone, while the total Karachi Package costs 121 billion rupees. As I told you, 3 billion rupees will be needed only for the thermal energy project. The ADB loan involves $700 million. The oil refinery project involves $500 million. Apart from this, we are implementing a mass transit project, too. As I said, the Liari Expressway, the bypass, on which a $190 million memorandum of understanding was signed in Singapore; all these funds will be spent in Karachi; agreements to this effect have been signed; the projects will be implemented, and then construction will begin. People will get jobs; people's future will be brightened, and this is what I want. If you are happy, then I am happy, too. I am bringing about these changes to make you happy. We have made changes in the KMC, too, in the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation, and in the water supply department. All these changes are envisaged to meet your basic necessities. Besides the Karachi Expressway, the Liari Expressway, we want to construct a road from Karachi to Ormara. The biggest private sector power project in the Third World and funded by the World Bank near Karachi—the Hubco—is close to you.

Unfortunately, no one had so far undertaken to safely dispose of the city's industrial waste. However, God willing, to ensure the people's health we will not allow the waste of the whole city into Karachi coastal water, and we will dispose it of in the real sense. During our tenure of government, the Karachi Port Trust has spent nearly 100 million rupees and has prepared a program of pathological waste management, sewer-cleaning project, and solid waste management project.

Brothers and sisters, in a similar fashion, last month I inaugurated the work on a nearly 600-million rupee liquid product marine terminal. Are the people of Karachi destined to live under fear and terror forever? Will the alleys of Karachi remain silent and dark; will the streets of Karachi continue to rattle with gunfiret? Terrorists are the worst elements of society. The people of Karachi are patriotic like other citizens. They can sacrifice even their life for the security of Pakistan.

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Translated Text] I would also like to make it clear to you that not only the linguistic parties are fighting in Karachi. This is also the route of drug smugglers and the center of arms traffickers. The land mafia also remains at war here. All these evil forces want to establish their control and domination over Karachi. So far, no government has had the courage to fight them. We are fighting them for your sake, for the sake of peace in Karachi, and for tranquillity in Sindh and Pakistan. We know that as a result of the Afghan problem, Pakistan was flooded with illegal arms, illegal migrants, and heroin addiction. The Kalashnikov culture took root. We have adopted a very clear policy in this regard that we will not support any sort of terrorism. We will not provide shelter here to those carrying out terrorism in territories of other countries, and we will punish according to law anyone who commits terrorism in our territory. We will not allow any Pakistani to carry out terrorism in other countries, nor will we allow any foreign terrorist to take shelter in Pakistan. We will not tolerate terrorism, either under the cover of politics or in the sacred name of religion. That is why we had crushed the revolt in Swat with full force.

My brothers and sisters, and my elders, whatever is happening in Karachi is not a problem of Karachi alone. It is a conspiracy to destabilize the whole country. The same forces that are patronizing terrorists are spreading the propaganda that the government has failed in restoring law and order. They say that the government has become powerless in the face of the terrorists, but the fact is that it is the present government that has crushed the terrorists, whether they were active in Karachi, or Malakand, or in Bajaur. This government is a government duly elected by a majority of the sagacious, learned, and enlightened Pakistanis. When the government takes action against the terrorists and arrests them, their mentors raise a hue and cry that innocent people are being caught. The situation in Karachi has relatively improved in the wake of arrests made recently. This means that the wanted people have been arrested. Arresting is one problem and giving punishment another. So far, we have seen that punishing anyone in Pakistan is very difficult. You know the incident. I will tell you about the incident in which four brothers were murdered. The police registered the first information report [FIR] and on the basis of that report, the culprit was arrested, but after the accused had confessed his crime, the relatives of the murdered people withdrew their names from the FIR, thus making the case weak.

Given the abnormal situation in Karachi, our response to Karachi cannot be an ordinary one. We are studying what the laws of other countries where terrorism has occurred, like in Malaysia and in Europe, say about continued detention of terrorists. So, we are studying ways to enforce this law and, God willing, when that law comes into force, the criminals will not be able to get themselves released from jail. At the same time, we have also strengthened the investigation side and initiated a new investigation system all over the city to ensure proper investigation. So far, the attention of the police and the law enforcement agencies was directed toward arresting the people, but on the other side, the procedure of investigation was slow. Therefore, the persons who were arrested and later released used to go back and create disturbances. Now, when the investigating side is strengthened, the arrested persons will not be able to get themselves released. At the same time, we have made the investigating officer responsible and accountable. In the absence of any system of accountability, the people do not perform their responsibilities in a proper manner. We now want to strengthen the police station system. What has been happening until now was that either a special police force was set up or some special thing was set up, but we now understand that as long as the basic unit—the police station—is not strengthened and modernized, the situation cannot improve. So, we are now devoting our attention to police stations. At present, there are 80 police stations in Karachi, out of which about 30 police station areas are disturbance-prone. You will be surprised to know that there is no list of criminals in police stations. During British rule, every police station used to have the names of the notorious persons of the area. Since the time of the British, there used to be a list indicating what person was arrested on what charges and on whose bail he was released, but now there is no such list in these police stations. We are reintroducing this list of criminals for the convenience of the police and to ensure that every police station has access to that list in the event of any incident.

When some incidents take place, and we go to arrest those terrorists, they go underground. If someone becomes an absconder, if someone does not appear before a court—if you are innocent then you should appear before the court—if someone does not appear before the court in Karachi then the government is also considering taking action to seal the property of absconders. I have made it clear to the chief minister and the authorities not to accept any sort of recommendation for those arrested. They should prove their innocence in courts. The terrorists would not have become so powerful today if no recommendations were made for the them in the past. The drug mafia, too, has become very powerful in our country. They also patronize the criminal elements. The legal noose around them has been tightened. We destroyed dozens of heroin laboratories in the tribal areas near Peshawar during the last two months and seized nearly 900 kg of hashish and 500 kg of heroin. Only three [as heard] days ago, 15 heroin laboratories were destroyed in the Khyber Agency area. A total of 6,500 kg of heroin and 2,500 maunds of opium were seized. Besides, 4,000 liters of chemicals used in processing heroin were destroyed. We have decided to fight against the drug mafia and eliminate them. They play with the lives of innocent Pakistanis. We cannot allow them to do so.

Some quarters demand that Karachi be handed over to the Army. It is not the professional responsibility of the Army to deal with terrorism in cities, it is the responsibility of police, and they will fulfill it. Along with police,

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we have also sent paramilitary forces, that is Rangers, to Karachi. The Army can certainly be called to assist the civil administration in some situations. However, to fulfill this responsibility in a better manner, police have been given special training by the Army. Armored personnel carriers [APC's] have also been provided to the police. We had sent the Army in for two years. That is, the Army was sent during Mr. Nawaz' government and then for one year during our tenure of office. So the Army stayed in Karachi for nearly two years. However, as soon as the Army was withdrawn, the same situation returned. This means that the Army operation was merely a momentary solution, not a permanent one, and for a permanent solution we have to make our law enforcing agencies more effective, and the people of Karachi will have to assist their law enforcing agencies and the government for a long-term solution.

I am happy to note that since the chief minister's monitoring room, the control room, has started functioning the common people are telephoning and identifying people to the police and asking them to arrest this or that person, and police after an investigation—it is not that people are arrested only after receiving someone's call—and at the request and identification by the people ... [pauses] and I am obliged to the people. The people of Karachi themselves can save Karachi. The people of Karachi are becoming aware and coming forward to save Karachi, and if they come forward, then peace will soon, God willing, be restored in Karachi, the capital of Sindh and the port of Pakistan.

We have provided APC's to the police, too, because we know that terrorists have sophisticated weapons with them. Ward committees have been set up to boost the cooperation between police and the people. Rangers have also been deployed in the city in great numbers to assist the police, and we have given police powers to the Rangers so they can assist the police in the real sense. We have noticed that the police have been targeted. The Rangers have also been targeted and the supporters of the government, too. I salute those who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorists. Those who are martyred are in fact always alive, and this is why every Muslim salutes them. Their lives are not only for the families. their lives are dedicated to the whole country, the nation, and the people.

Apart from terrorism, crimes are also committed in Karachi. In this context, I appeal to the people on a voluntary basis that if you employ people at your home then you should try to get these employees registered at your local police stations. A form will be available to you; you will not have to meet anyone; you need to fill in the form and put it in a box. This is because, the ordinary crimes are committed on the basis of information given by people who reside inside the house.

My brothers, elders, and sisters, at my instruction, the chief minister of Sindh holds a meeting every day in which the situation of Karachi is reviewed on a daily basis. Simultaneously, it is our intention to ensure that registration numbers are clearly written on taxis, the yellow taxis in particular, all over Pakistan, especially in Karachi, and that the yellow taxi drivers wear the driver's uniform. This is because many of the incidents have occurred in yellow taxis, and that is why we have made this decision.

I have openly told all my political companions also that no MNA [Member of National Assembly], MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly], minister, or adviser will be allowed to be an obstacle in the eradication of terrorism. No government official who assists terrorists in any manner will be tolerated. Officials of the administration and officials of the government should remember that they are working for the state. When they are working for the state, they should not have any political affiliation, and they should think about the state and the country only and not about any individual. If somebody commits any mistake, there will not be anybody to save him. In this regard, we have not even forgiven some senior officials of the Karachi District Administration, and we have taken them into custody and started inquiries.

Brothers and sisters, Benazir and the people have waged a war against those who ruin the law and order situation in the country; against drug traffickers; against those who do business in politics; and those who commit murders in the name of religion. In this war, I have the support of all the elders, brothers, and sisters who are living from Khyber to Kiamari. No leniency will be given to anyone in cases of terrorism. When I went to Karachi, the people there complained me about evening newspapers, too. As we believe in the freedom of press, I will ask the CPNE [Council of Pakistani Newspaper Editors] and APNS [All Pakistan Newspaper Society] to do something first. If they are able to do something, it will be better. They should ensure that evening newspapers, not only evening papers, every newspaper should function according to the law. No report should be published that is against the law. Everyone has the right to report the truth. Everyone has the right to criticize. You can definitely criticize us, but along with it, you should also honor the law.

My dear brothers and sisters of Pakistan, on 23 March 1940, our ancestors made a demand for a separate country for the Muslims of the subcontinent. They made a demand for a peaceful country. They made a demand for Pakistan. They did not make a demand for only Punjab, Northwest Frontier Province, Sindh, or Balochistan. They demanded a cradle of peace and stability, love and brotherhood. We will rest only after creating a cradle of peace and stability for the Muslims. It is not easy to confront terrorism. However, we will make this confrontation. It is such a war in which people will succeed, and the people will become victorious. It will take time. It needs patience. However, the people will emerge victorious in this test.

I remember when bloodshed and massacre occurred in Orangi town about 10 years ago, and I had visited the

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town with my political friends. I saw people's fingers lying scattered on the streets. I wondered who could commit this kind of murder and cut fingers off of even innocent children. I remember when there was an interim government in 1988 and massacres had taken place in Hyderabad and Karachi, and a large number of people were killed. My heart grieves when I remember that in 1988 or 1989, five young boys were burned alive. I remember the kidnapping of Major Kalimullah. I remember every young man who was kidnapped and whose [word indistinct] was drilled. I also remember the policemen and Rangers who became victims and were murdered. My heart weeps for them. My heart bleeds to see what has happened to Karachi. I live there, you live there. Karachi is the city of the great leader [Mohammad Ali Jinnah], the city of leader of the nation [Liaqat Ali Khan], and the city of the leader of the people [Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto], and we are fully determined to win the hearts of the Karachi citizens. We will serve Karachi and restore peace to this city, and will not be intimated by anyone in this fight, because our lives are for Karachi. We offer our lives for Pakistan, for the poor of Pakistan, and if need be, we will sacrifice our lives in this struggle, but provide protection to the poor. Long Live Pakistan!

Bhutto, Delegation Depart for Official U.S. Visit

BK0504020795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad for Washington this morning to pay an official visit to the United States at the invitation of President Bill Clinton. She is accompanied by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; Commerce Minister Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar; retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, minister of the interior; prime minister's special assistants Shahid Hasan Khan and Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali; National Assembly Member Begum Nusrat Bhutto; and Chaudhary Hamid Nasir Chatha, chief of the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo group. Information and Broadcasting Minister Khalid Ahmad Kharal, already in the United States, will join the prime minister's entourage there.

The Kashmir issue, the Pressler Amendment, the delivery of the F-16's to Pakistan or the refund of the money paid for them, U.S. investment in Pakistan, and bilateral trade will figure prominently during the prime minister's talks with President Clinton and other U.S. officials. Several agreements and memorandums of understanding for investment in the petroleum, energy transmission, communication, and telecommunication sectors will be signed during the prime minister's visit. The prime minister will also address an investment conference to invite the U.S. private sector to participate in Pakistan's economic development.

In addition to her talks with President Clinton on 11 April, the prime minister's engagements will include talks with the U.S. energy, commerce, and defense secretaries; the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Senate majority leader; the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and the House International Relations Committee.

Arrest of 8 Ramzi Associates Challenged in Court

BK0504091395 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 5 Apr 95 pp 8, 7

[Report by JANG correspondent; all names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar—The arrest of eight Arab nationals, including the director of a foreign aid agency, on the suspicion of their being associated with Ramzi Yusuf has been challenged in the Peshawar High Court. A division bench of the Peshawar High Court will hear on Wednesday, 5 April, the writ petition filed by a foreign national Hafiz Hameed Mahmud. The writ petition—filed through an eminent lawyer Qazi Mohammad Anwar Advocate—has named the federal and provincial governments, the director of the Federal Investigation Agency [FIA], the deputy commissioner of Peshawar, the senior superintendent of police, and the station house officer of Hayatabad as a party to the suit. It has been stated in the writ petition that a raid squad of the FIA and the Peshawar Police raided the residence of Ahmad Ethan Seikry, the director of an aid agency called Afghan Support Committee, in Hayatabad at 1400 on 25 March without any warrant and arrested him and his seven other colleagues —Director Wali Badri Hussain of Chad, Teacher Naim al-Hamrumi and Kana'n Khalid of Jordan, and Ahmad 'Abdallah, Nasir Mohammad Yusuf, and Omam Magol of Libya—who had gathered there for a luncheon. It has also been stated in the writ petition that the same raid squad had also conducted a raid at that place on 18 March but did not find any incriminating material. The writ petition adds that it is not known where these arrested persons have been taken after the arrest and the police are also not saying anything about their whereabouts. It further says that the arrested persons have neither been presented in any court according to law nor has a remand for their continued detention been obtained. According to the writ petition, it is feared that the police have made them the target of their unlawful violence and killed some of them. The court has been requested to order the police to present the arrested persons in court and to declare their arrest illegal.

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